The University of Hawaiʻi Board of Regents: Aloha. I have been working with the UH Manoa Ethnic Studies Department for the last forty-six years. During that time, I have never seen the morale of the faculty of the four Arts and Sciences Colleges—the heart and soul of Liberal Arts education at Manoa—so low, the faculty so pessimistic about the future. We in Arts and Sciences understand that we are not merely being neglected, but actually defunded by the UH administration and Board of Regents. After years of drastic budget cuts, many of our positions have disappeared. The English Department, for example, which had over eighty positions twenty-five years ago now has thirty-four. These multi-year budget cuts now constitute a financial crisis which has seriously eroded the ability of units to recruit, hire and retain topnotch faculty, the ability to maintain research and publication standards, the ability to replace old and worn out equipment in line with a Research 1 university. We witness a harmful increase of of student-faculty ratio in classes and departments are in the situation of not being able to teach all their courses or having to hire lecturers for courses which would be better taught by fulltime faculty.

What makes this especially inequitable is that while the Colleges of Arts and Sciences at Manoa provide 55% of the total student semester hours and contain 42% of the UHM students and comprise 48% of UH faculty, they receive only 18% of the combined tuition and general funds allocated to UHM. The funds which should be directed to Arts and Sciences are being used to subsidize other university programs.

Therefore, the Arts and Sciences Senate this year has passed a resolution asking for a one-time legislative infusion of $7.5 million to be used for urgent fiscal relief of the four colleges.

How can the Board of Regents support Arts and Sciences? You can

1. Support this request in the legislature; 2. Announce a firm date by which an equitable and formula-based budgeting model will be fully in place (the philosophy must be that the presumptive destination of student tuition revenue is units serving students); 3. Institute an audit trail and mechanism of independent oversight over all fiscal allocations; and commit to providing adequate funds to maintain the Arts and Sciences at Manoa into the future as a vibrant foundation of the University of Hawaiʻi at Manoa.
Noel Kent  Professor
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Mirza Uzair Baig <mub@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu  

Date: 14th Nov 2016  

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents  
   Jan Sullivan, Chair  

From: MIRZA UZAIR BAIG  
   PHD ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING/MA MAHTEMATICS  
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in FAVOR the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

I hope that the BOR will seriously consider and approve the GA salary increase portion of the budget as every year the living expenses continue to rise with inflation but our meager salaries are not even compensated for this increase. Also, I would like to point out that we get paid for just 20 hours / week but work for quite more than that. This might not feel true to you or you might feel its exaggerated but I will ask you to talk to advisors/department chairs who employ us, confide to us the same and agree that this work arrangement is not fair. Working more than what we are paid doesn't mean we don't do a good job as that can be verified from the fact that every semester the same faculty members ask us and re-hire us to be a TA for their course or RA on their project as they are more than satisfied with our contribution and hardwork.

I would also like to welcome you to spend sometime verifying firsthand (as surveys and administration at UH is immune from what goes inside classrooms) what my colleagues (graduate students) and I have to say in this regard.

Thanking you in anticipation, I remain

Yours sincerely  
Mirza Uzair Baig
Dear BOR,

See attached letter for my written testimony regarding an increase of the GA base salary from Step 6 to Step 10 and provide a 2% cost of living adjustment increase to be considered by the BOR for the November 17 BOR meeting at Leeward Community College.

Best

Phil Jordan

----------------------------------
Philipp Jordan
PhD Student / Graduate Assistant

School of Communications
College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
2550 Campus Road
Crawford Hall 323
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2217

+1 808-726-8612
philippj@hawaii.edu
http://www2.hawaii.edu/~philipp/

GSO Testimony for BOR Meeting 11-17-2016_Philipp Jordan.pdf
491K
Date: 11/14/2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
    Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Philipp Jordan
    PhD Student / Graduate Assistant
    School of Communications
    College of Social Sciences
    University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
    2550 Campus Road
    Crawford Hall 323
    Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2217
    +1 808-726-8612
    philippj@hawaii.edu
    http://www2.hawaii.edu/~philippj/

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in FAVOR the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

I am a concurrent PhD student in CIS and a M.Sc. in ICS. I currently work two 0.5 FTE GA positions. One 0.5 FTE with the School of Communications instructing 26 senior students in research methods on Step 8 as a 9-month appointment and another 0.5 FTE position on an NSF funded grant to improve accessibility to the National Park Service System on Step 7 as a 11-month appointment. I have published three peer-reviewed papers this year, acquired a 3500 Dollar external grant and work on multiple research tracks as well as my dissertation itself.

Why do I work two GA-ships? Not because I have too much time on my hands, but one position does simply not pay enough money to survive in the high-price state of Hawaii. And I am not the only student in that tight spot, though, we carry undergrad teaching loads and work incredible hours while barely breaking even with one 0.5 FTE position at the current and past wages. An increase to step 10 would benefit me and so many others, a couple of hundred dollars more at the end of the month make a real difference for not maybe you, but us, and that is our reality as graduate students.

I am thankful for what UHM has given me personally and the support I have received during my studies and research at this incredible institution, however, I am in the system since 5 years by now and it is time to approve an increase. In these 5 years for example, my rent increased from 1150 Dollars per month to 1375 for a two-bedroom apartment which I share with another tenant. That increase is equivalent to a 17% increase in living expenses in these five years. A recognition of this change in living conditions over the years is urgently necessary.

Sincerely
Phil Jordan
Testimony for November 17, 2016 University of Hawaii Board of Regents' Meeting

cercatrova99@hushmail.com <cercatrova99@hushmail.com>  
Reply-To: cercatrova99@hushmail.com  
To: "bor@hawaii.edu" <bor@hawaii.edu>  
Cc: "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>, "mepetrisko@wascsenior.org" <mepetrisko@wascsenior.org>,  
"ocr@ed.gov" <ocr@ed.gov>, "news@hawaiinewsnow.com" <news@hawaiinewsnow.com>, "editor@kaleo.org" <editor@kaleo.org>, "dorisc@hawaii.edu" <dorisc@hawaii.edu>  

Aloha,

Please find attached my testimony for Thursday's meeting.

Mahalo,

David

E Malama I Ka 'Aina, E Ola Pono (Cherish the Land, Live in Health and Harmony)

attachment: UHBORNOV172016_CHING-MIHAILA_.pdf 54K
Never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.” ~Winston Churchill

300 Wai Nani Way,
1008
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
808.649.9276

November 15, 2016

Via email and
Confirmed by Telephone

University of Hawaii
Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street,
Bachman Hall 209
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: 808.956.8213
Email: BOR@Hawaii.Edu

Re: Former Vice President for Student Affairs Doris Ching’s Involvement in University of Hawaii Government Records Tampering Scandal (Title 37 Penal Code, H.R.S., Section 710-1017 Offenses Against Public Administration and Tampering with Government Records)

Dear Regents:

The statute of limitations has rendered Doris Ching’s involvement in the David Robb and Janice Heu educational records scandal that occurred in the mid-1990s at the University of Hawaii a non-prosecutable offense. Therefore, reconciliation is the most reasonable course for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and senior-level executive administration. Disgorgement of the undersigned former University of Hawaii student’s unlawfully withheld diploma is long past due. This matter calls for justice before interim chancellor Ching’s coming retirement.

Kind regards,

David A. Mihaila

David A. Mihaila
The testimony statement is below as well as in attached PDF.

Date: November 15, 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
    Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Emily Wright
    Geography Department, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Re: Testimony in Support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

The proposed GA salary increase would make GA positions a real option for graduate students to support themselves and their families while making progress toward their educational goals. As a single woman without children, I have been fortunate that I do not have any dependents that I am responsible to support. Even so, my salary as a GA during my first year left me with a very tight budget, given the high cost of living in Honolulu. For my peers in my department and across campus, many of them do have spouses and children to support, and in these cases, their GA salary is simply insufficient. These students are forced to find other jobs to supplement their income, which draws them away from their studies and prolongs their degree progress. The long-term impact is the University expends more resources per-student, and the degree completion rates remain high.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to live and work among such a diverse community, and that UH Mānoa is a place of learning open for people of all ages and family situations. Let’s commit to continuing this by making GA positions an option that works for students, allowing them to fully focus on their academic and career goals without worrying about how to pay for the next grocery trip to Costco.

Emily Wright
Master’s Student, Geography
University of Hawai‘i - Manoa
East-West Center Student Affiliate
Date: November 15, 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
    Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Emily Wright
    Geography Department, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Re: Testimony in Support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

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I am very grateful for the opportunity to live and work among such a diverse community, and that UH Mānoa is a place of learning open for people of all ages and family situations. Let’s commit to continuing this by making GA positions an option that works for students, allowing them to fully focus on their academic and career goals without worrying about how to pay for the next grocery trip to Costco.
Testimony for BOR Meeting Nov 17, 2016

Catherine Lee <cl2013@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Date: 15 November 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
    Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Catherine Lee
    Department of Linguistics; UH Mānoa

Re: Testimony in support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

I am a fourth-year PhD student at UH Mānoa in the Department of Linguistics. I have been a Graduate Assistant since Fall 2013. Although I am able to survive on my current salary, I have had to budget extremely carefully. The current salary is enough to pay rent on a shared apartment and to buy cheap food and personal items. However, when I was hospitalized in April, I was forced to take out student loans in order to pay my medical bills. Similarly, when my uncle passed away in October, I could not afford to go to the funeral in California. If Graduate Assistants made at least $20,000 a year, we would all be happier, healthier, and far more productive as a result.

Graduate Assistants also deserve to make at least $20,000 a year due to the specialized and highly technical nature of our work. My first position at UH Mānoa was working as a copy editor on the journal Language Documentation & Conservation. I used the skills I developed in my Master’s degree in English to do my job, so I should be paid at the rate of technical editors with Master’s degrees. Currently, I teach a freshman-level writing intensive course, which uses the pedagogical skills I have developed over five years of teaching at the college level. I may work part-time, but the work that I do for UH is of excellent quality and I should receive a commensurate salary.

Thank you for your service, and for considering my testimony,
-Catherine Lee
catherine.lee@hawaii.edu

Department of Linguistics
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
1890 East-West Road, 569 Moore
Honolulu, HI 96822 USA
Date: 15 November 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents  
Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Catherine Lee  
Department of Linguistics; UH Mānoa

Re: Testimony in support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.  

I am a fourth-year PhD student at UH Mānoa in the Department of Linguistics. I have been a Graduate Assistant since Fall 2013. Although I am able to survive on my current salary, I have had to budget extremely carefully. The current salary is enough to pay rent on a shared apartment and to buy cheap food and personal items. However, when I was hospitalized in April, I was forced to take out student loans in order to pay my medical bills. Similarly, when my uncle passed away in October, I could not afford to go to the funeral in California. If Graduate Assistants made at least $20,000 a year, we would all be happier, healthier, and far more productive as a result.  

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Thank you for your service, and for considering my testimony,

-Catherine Lee  
catherine.lee@hawaii.edu
Hi,

My name is Florencia, I am from Mexico, and this is my first semester as a teacher assistant at the department of Communicology. Allthough I am incredibly grateful for having a salary and a tuition waiver, I must admit the salary is low compared to the cost of living in Hawai‘i. I find myself worrying about not having enough money to pay for basic necessities, like food and clothing. I've considered getting a second job, but decided not to since it would be unhealthy. Being a TA already takes a lot of time and energy, to the point where managing grad student responsibilities and TA responsibilities becomes stressful. Having to worry about money is not good for my health nor for my performance at the University of Hawai‘i. Having a bigger salary would ease this stress, thus improving my performance both as a student and as a TA. It would also make this experience more fun.

This is my testimony. Thank you for your time.

Florencia Durón Delfín | Department of Communicology
Dear Board of Regents,

attached please fine my testimony to the Board meeting on November 17, in support of the legislative funding request for the Cancer Center.

Respectfully,

Unhee Lim
### Original Message

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<thead>
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<td>testimony for BOR meeting on Nov 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>PASS with IP 128.171.232.21 [Learn more]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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X-Received: by 10.98.61.152 with SMTP id x24mr716794pfj.88.1479258661876; Tue, 15 Nov 2016 17:11:01 -0800 (PST)
Return-Path: <ULim@cc.hawaii.edu>
Received: from gateway.crch.hawaii.edu (gateway.crch.hawaii.edu. [128.171.232.21])
    by mx.google.com with ESMTPS id f10si28989817pge.120.2016.11.15.17.11.01
    for <bor@hawaii.edu> (version=TLS1_2 cipher=ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256 bits=128/128);
    Tue, 15 Nov 2016 17:11:01 -0800 (PST)
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client-ip=128.171.232.21;
Authentication-Results: mx.google.com;
    spf=pass (google.com: best guess record for domain of ulim@cc.hawaii.edu designates 128.171.232.21 as permitted sender)
smtphailfrom=ULim@cc.hawaii.edu
Received: from idomain-MTA by gateway.crch.hawaii.edu with Novell_GroupWise; Tue, 15 Nov 2016 15:11:00 -1000
Message-Id: <5825D62D020000EA000B73FC@gateway.crch.hawaii.edu>
In support of the FY17-18 biennium legislative funding request of $5 million for the Cancer Center.

Dear Regents,

In the past couple of years, I have closely followed your discussions about the Cancer Center. Today, I am most grateful for your constructive criticism where needed and your ultimate support that have allowed us faculty and staff to have a change in leadership and retain our organizational independence.

These two conditions were necessary for many responsible faculty and staff members to support for more public funding into the Center, just as you would not sign any contracts, no matter how lucrative, unless you know you will have some control over the deliverables.

Now that we have a participatory culture of reasoning restored, which once seemed like a small miracle, I am quite optimistic, for the first time in 8 years, that we as a Center have a good chance at not only achieving financial stability but advancing our cancer research and care mission, perhaps even becoming the jewel of the NCI Cancer Center Program as our new Director aspires and inspires us to be.

I believe that the State’s investment in the people of the Cancer Center and the work we carry out will pay off – as it has in the Center’s 45-year track record, barring the recent few years. The University will retain the best infrastructure for synergistic cancer research and funding, NCI designation, which serves to generate more than the sum of individual researchers and projects. The State will keep pride in preserving its only cancer research network that cannot be replaced by any on mainland. Already a world’s leading cancer epidemiology group known for excellent surveillance and etiology research on this most uniquely diverse populace, which is the bedrock of all cancer research. The clinical trials team to continue delivering never-profitable experimental treatments to local hospitals for their patients in most need, as they have done so for 30 years. The cancer biology group to continue exploring the Pacific environment and cultivating the minds of local youths to advance the future care.

So, thank you again for supporting an investment in the current and future cancer research of Hawai’i.
Testimony for 11/17/16 meeting

Hannah Liebreich <hannahli@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Tue, Nov 15, 2016 at 4:26 PM

Aloha BOR,

Please see my written testimony attached as a word document in support of the proposed Biennium Operating Budget.

Very Respectfully,
Hannah Liebreich

Hannah Liebreich  
Graduate Assistant  
Center on the Family  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Liebreich Testimony BOR Meeting 11-17-2016.docx  
17K
I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

With regard to the budget line item request to increase GA stipends:

- My academic department here at UH is small, and a lack of competitive GA funding makes graduate student recruitment difficult. It is my hope that by increasing stipends for GA’s in all departments, including my own, it will be easier to recruit talented graduate students and build our UH Ohana.
- In my experience at UH Mānoa the administration often discusses better working conditions for GA’s (including but not limited to increased stipends), but rarely are these discussions followed by action. Increasing stipends for GA’s is a way for administration to extend an olive branch to graduate students. This is a concrete step that will hopefully start an ongoing dialogue of change between administration and graduate students.
- A low stipend has impacted my everyday life in very real ways. Pay determines where I can and cannot live among other things.

Very Respectfully,
Hannah Liebreich
Testimony for BOR Meeting on 11/17

Erin Fitch <epfitch@higp.hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Tue, Nov 15, 2016 at 6:01 PM

Please consider the attached testimony

--

Erin P Fitch, M.Sc.
Ph.D. Candidate
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics & Planetology
epfitch@higp.hawaii.edu

Testimony for BOR Meeting 11-17-2016_Fitch.pdf

102K
Date: November 15th, 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
    Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Erin Fitch
    Department of Geology and Geophysics

Re: Testimony in support of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.
Aloha kākou,

I will not be able to attend Thursdays meeting, however, attached is my testimony for the Biennium Budget in favor of increasing the Graduate Assistant salary.

Mahalo,

Lilia Merrin
lmerrin@hawaii.edu
(808) 652-7049
Date: November 15, 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
   Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Lilia Merrin
   Graduate Teaching Assistant, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, UH Mānoa

Re: Testimony in Support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in Favor the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

With the high cost of living, the current GA stipend amount is inadequate to provide for my basic needs including housing, food, etc. As such I need to work additional jobs in order to support myself which takes away much needed time from progressing towards attainment of my advanced degree. Increasing the GA stipend amount will be a good step toward allowing me to complete my degree in a timely manner.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Lilia Merrin
lmerrin@hawaii.edu
(808) 652-7049
Aloha mai kākou,

Chair Sullivan and Regents of the University of Hawai‘i,
Attached you will find my testimony for the upcoming November 17, 2016 Board of Regents meeting.

Mahalo nui!

--
Nāwa’a Napoleon
Dean of Arts & Sciences
Ke Kula Nui Kalāulu ‘o Kapi‘olani
4303 Diamond Head Road
Kalāhū, Honolulu, HI, 96816
Ke‘ena: ʻIlima 206
Helu Kelepona: (808) 734-9517
Helu Kelepa‘i: (808) 734-9151

KŪPONO - KULEANA - MĀLAMA - KŪLOA‘A - KŪLIA

Reporting a student of concern? Click here
November 15, 2016

Board of Regent Chair Jan Sullivan

Testimony Regarding Budget for Hawaiʻi Papa o Ke Ao

Me ‘oukou ka welina o ke aloha,

For the past year, I have represented Kapiʻolani Community College as a member of the System-wide Hawaiʻi Papa o Ke Ao team that was selected by and reports directly to President David Lassner. I am here to support the Hawaiʻi Papa O Ke Ao portion of the biennium budget, specifically the Kapiʻolani Community College or Kauhale Ke Kuleana budget request.

Note that the Board of Regents policy chapter 4-1, states, “As the only provider of public higher education in Hawaiʻi, the University embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawaiʻi and to Hawaiʻi’s indigenous language and culture. To fulfill this responsibility, the University ensures active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the University and supports vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history and culture.” This mandate is in alignment with Hawaiʻi Papa O Ke Ao “key areas of student leadership, faculty and staff stewardship, and institutional decision-making,” which are, “Leadership Development,” “Community Engagement,” and “Hawaiian Language and Cultural Parity,” all which may be arrived at through the projects that are supported by the submitted biennium budget request Kauhale Ke Kuleana.

According to the 2015-2021 UH Strategic Directions, “… the University of Hawaiʻi is committed to improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of current and future generations” but more importantly “Intertwoven in the strategic directions are two key imperatives embraced within the BOR-approved UH mission: a commitment to being a foremost indigenous-serving institution and advancing sustainability.”

To focus on the Kapiʻolani Community College Kauhale Ke Kuleana budget request, I am also providing a breakdown of the Community Colleges’ requests, which point out that over the past year, 90% of the Native Hawaiian graduates at the four-year University of Hawaiʻi campuses started their journey at the community college. This is a clear indication that our Community Colleges provide a firm foundation for our Native Hawaiian students. Of course, our four-year
University of Hawai‘i institutions must be recognized for insuring that they also support Native Hawaiians on to completion of their four-year degree.

Also provided are the positions and program support that Kapi‘olani Community College is requesting in this biennium budget. With the institutionalization of these positions and program support, success of not only Native Hawaiians but all students will increase significantly. The Title III and the National Science Foundation grants that Kapi‘olani Community College has secured in the past four years have been supporting these positions. It is time that we institutionalize them. These positions have increased Native Hawaiian success specifically in STEM. Of the 631 students pursuing an Associate of Science in Natural Science, 195 are Native Hawaiians. Of the 16 ASNS students who were in Summer Internships, 11 were Native Hawaiian. Of the 75 students doing research projects in our Research Intensive program, 54 of them are Native Hawaiian.

With the support requested, perhaps we should go beyond the goal of becoming “a” Model Indigenous Serving Institution, and instead, work towards being “the” Model Indigenous Serving Institution in the nation. Our present leadership definitely has the capacity to see this goal to fruition.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Nāwa‘a Napoleon Dean of Arts & Sciences Kapi‘olani Community College
Testimony in support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Stanislava Gardasevic <gardasev@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Tue, Nov 15, 2016 at 11:42 PM

Hello,
Plese find attached my Testimony in support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

I hope you will be able to answer to our plea and will have a fruitful meeting.

Thank you,
Stanislava Gardasevic
CIS PhD Program student and TA

GSO Testimony Template for BOR Meeting 11-17-2016-Gardasevic.pdf
111K
Date: 11/15/2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
   Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Stanislava Gardasevic
   Communication and Information PhD Program, student and TA at College of Natural Sciences, Information and Computer Sciences

Re: Testimony in support for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in favor of the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

As a new international student, I am strongly supporting this request, especially the part regarding the increase of GA salaries. This is because this increase would influence the quality of life for my fellow GAs and myself. Please be aware that our current financial situation is very limiting, and after covering costs of necessities such as housing, food and healthcare (I have a dependent for whom I cover these costs as well) there is barely any money left for the other needs. This is especially the case in the start of the semester when we need to pay the administrative fee ($440). I would plea that you have in mind that international students can not work any other job than the one we have at UHM and can not apply for financial aid, therefore are entirely dependent on the GA salary.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to study and work at UHM and have very high opinion of all of the services that are offered. I hope the administration will continue with the great job, but also that the decision makers will take in consideration the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request, as the more we (the teachers and researchers of the university) are satisfied with our life, the better quality we can provide during our service in UHM.

With kindest regards,
Stanislava Gardasevic
CIS PhD student and TA
Hello,

Please find my testimony attached with this email.

Thank you,
Shreya

Shreya Yadav  
PhD student  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GSO Testimony for BOR Meeting 11-17-2016.docx
17K
Date: November 16th 2016

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
Jan Sullivan, Chair

From: Shreya Yadav
Marine Biology

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request

Dear Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing in FAVOR for the 2017-2019 Biennium Operating Budget Legislative Request.

I am a first year graduate student and this has been my first semester TAing a class in Biology for undergraduates. I was initially surprised by the 2-month delay in my first salary but later learnt that this is normal. However I would like to point out that this was never made clear to me before I came here (from India), and the first few months here were a challenge trying to live off previous savings – and I have been earning in rupees for the past few years (Rs 70= 1 USD). This could have been communicated better during the admission process. It is problematic to assume that students will get here with enough money to live in a place as expensive as Honolulu, without getting paid. Which brings me to my next concern – that of the GA salary in relation to living costs in this city. I work 20 hours a week (and in reality much more towards my class) but I feel the compensation is minimal and barely enough to make rent and purchase food. It is upsetting that graduate students at this level should be so restricted financially. I am lucky in that I am single and come from a very supportive family. But even if I was to consider settling down or getting married, I would not feel financially confident to do so. And this is a huge problem. If the university wants to attract talent and diversity, it needs to make sure its employees are kept happy and are able to live comfortably in this expensive city. This will immediately feed back into the quality of teaching provided at the university. It is critical that the university considers raising its GA salaries as they provide a valuable service to the academic community and overlooking this can be extremely damaging in the long term.

Thank you.
Shreya
Keolani Noa <keolani@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Aloha,
Please accept my testimony in regards to the Biennium Budget.

Mahalo,

Mrs. Keolani Noa
Native Hawaiian Academic Advancement Coordinator
Project Olonā Director

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Board of Regent Chair Jan Sullivan

Testimony Regarding the Hawai’i Papa o Ke Ao Biennium Budget – Kapi‘olani Community College, Kauhale Ke Kuleana

Aloha mai kākou,

As the Kalākaua (Native Hawaiian Council) Chair at Kapi‘olani Community College, I serve on the University of Hawai’i Community College’s Hawai’i Papa o Ke Ao Committee. I am here to support the Hawai’i Papa o Ke Ao Biennium Budget and the Kapi‘olani Community College Kauhale Ke Kuleana Budget Request.

The objectives of Hawai’i Papa o Ke Ao is to allow each college within the UH system “to use this plan as a framework to create individual plans that are respectful of each campus and the communities that they serve. The task force strongly encourages the Chancellors of each campus to work with their Hawaiian councils to develop a plan aligned to Hawai’i Papa O Ke Ao,” and that the “linkages across all campus communities are also critical in fostering the common goal of improved articulation of Hawaiian programs and student access/success, particularly between community colleges and four-year institutions, and further build and sustain the community of learners.” We believe that the following programs serve Hawai’i Papa O Ke Ao’s goals of supporting Native Hawaiian academic success, which may be arrived at through the programs that are supported by the submitted biennium budget request Kauhale ke Kuleana.

Native Hawaiian Student Success and Persistence

- The primary objective of the Summer Bridge Program at Kapi‘olani Community College is to increase enrollment of Native Hawaiian students at Kapi‘olani Community College in STEM and Hawaiian Studies programs. We identified high school seniors, to help bridge the gap between high school and college-level studies. As a result, this goal is to recruit and select 20 seniors from O‘ahu high schools and charter schools with high percentages of Native Hawaiian students to participate in a six-week Summer Bridge Program geared towards improvement in Mathematics, building on knowledge of Hawaiian culture and traditions, and an introduction to ‘Āina-based research.

- The overall goal of Project ‘Olona, is to provide students in the Hawaiian Studies, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics undergraduate program at KCC with research experience while achieving the educational and scientific goals and in furthering interest in
STEM professions and career development among Native Hawaiian students. The learning experience is invaluable; complementing cultural knowledge with skills acquired through fieldwork and in a laboratory setting, thus preparing them for more advanced studies in fields of science or in areas of entrepreneurship.

- Research-based high-impact practice of undergraduate research has been a hallmark of the College’s NSF-funded and campus institutionalized Associate in Sciences/Natural Sciences (ASNS) degree and transfer program. The College’s ASNS Program received federal and private grants to recruit Native Hawaiian students to STEM majors, and to create interventions which are successful in closing achievement gaps for Native Hawaiian students in STEM majors. Native Hawaiian students are positively over-represented in the ASNS program. Seventy-four of 280 ASNS degree students are Native Hawaiian (26.4%) compared with the percentage of Native Hawaiians in the general student population (16.6%). Success rates of Native Hawaiian students in STEM courses increased from 66.2% in 2009 to 70.9% in 2013, and 26 Native Hawaiian students have transferred in STEM majors.

- In 2014-15, 70 ASNS students completed undergraduate research experiences in the life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. Native Hawaiian students actively participate in undergraduate research experiences (URE) and Native Hawaiian STEM research students have won national competitions at the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences (SACNAS), Council for Undergraduate Research, and the Emerging Researchers Network. The College’s Strategic Plan for 2015-2021 sets a benchmark for 180 students completing URE by 2021, and anticipates 60 Native Hawaiians in URE in 2021.

Native Hawaiian Student Academic Pathways

- In 2012, Kapi‘olani Community College and the other six colleges in the University of Hawai‘i Community College System developed an Associate in Arts Degree in Hawaiian Studies. This degree has ‘Āina-based learning roots in the Māla Maunuunu garden, where students cultivate native plants of nutritional and medicinal value in Hawaiian culture. This ‘Āina-based pedagogy was made possible through a Title III renovation grant for the Mānele building, which provided indoor-outdoor learning experiences modeled on ancient Hawaiian teaching practices and ecologies.

- The Title III Part A Grant (2015-2020) will provide KCC’s Hawaiian Language Revitalization Specialists to collaborate with the Native Hawaiian Articulation Specialist to create new degree pathways for Native Hawaiian students at the College. An Associate Professor of Hawaiian Language developed a Hawaiian 290 course entitled, Hawaiian Language and Culture through Application, which will be conducted in both Hawaiian and English, and designed to prepare students to serve as Hawaiian language and culture resources on campus and in the community. Students selected for this course must be native, bilingual speakers of Hawaiian, or have attained an advanced proficiency as determined by the instructor.

According to the 2015-2021 UH Strategic Directions, “... the University of Hawai‘i is committed to improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of current and future generations” but more importantly “Interwoven in the strategic directions are two key imperatives embraced within the BOR-approved UH mission: a commitment to being a foremost indigenous-
serving institution and advancing sustainability. With your support, we can realize these goals for our students and the college.

Me ka pono,

Keolani Noa
Title III, Native Hawaiian Academic Advancement Coordinator
Kapi'olani Community College