Aloha Chair Ericson and Members of the Mānoa Faculty Senate,

My name is Richard Mizusawa, and I serve as ASUH President at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am a fourth year undergraduate student double majoring in Communication and Communicology with a minor in Business Administration.

I wanted to show my support as ASUH President of the Chancellor’s proposed Tobacco-Free Campus Policy, draft dated November 16, 2013. I remember when ASUH first passed its resolution to support a tobacco-free campus policy and when the MFS voted in March 2012 to endorse it. It really showed me that students, as well as faculty of our campus can work together collaboratively for a common cause for the betterment of the students we serve daily. The proposed policy will save many lives – both now and in the future of our University. It will also help to reduce our environmental footprint in the Mānoa Stream and in the ocean, and overall make our Mānoa campus a healthier place to work and learn.

Although this may be a controversial issue, I wanted to remind the MFS as well as our colleagues here at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa of what stance we both supported. It is an issue that has been discussed and has been thought thoroughly about, and I believe we have a great policy because of our collaborative efforts. I also understand that there are some proposed compromises, including the allowance of e-cigarettes on campus as well as designated smoking areas alongside in the policy. However, I would like to voice that this policy will hopefully encourage everyone to both reduce the amount of smoking both on and off campus.

Our very own Chancellor Apple was once a smoker, but quit for the right reasons. It is my hope that those on our campus who do smoke will do the same again for the overall benefit of both smokers and non-smokers. In some way, shape, or form, smoking and its harmful consequences has touched many of our lives. I strongly believe this policy will help to reduce the amount of lives that will be impacted negatively by the effects of smoking we know of today.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by cell (808-388-2654) or email (rmizusaw@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

Richard Mizusawa
President, ASUH
101st Senate