



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony for 2/15/24

1 message

Bronson Azama <bazama@hawaii.edu>

Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 12:42 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha mai kākou,

Here is a late testimony for today's Institutional Success. And a copy of draft Senate Resolution 06-24

Mahalo,
Bronson

2 attachments



SR 06-24.pdf

195K



Azama_BOR Testimony 2_15_24.pdf

43K



Wednesday, February 15, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success

FROM: Office of the President of ASUH

Reaffirming ASUH's position against UH's status as a University Affiliated Research Center
(U.A.R.C)

'Ano'ai kākou,

My name is Bronson Azama, I am the current President elect of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa..

I am providing draft Senate Resolution 06-24 which was approved unanimously by the ASUH Senate on February 8, 2024. Our students express concerns that have been shared by this governing body since 2005 as noted in the resolution provided.

We request the Regents reevaluate U.A.R.C and reinforce that we would like to see the administration terminate the U.A.R.C contract, refuse to participate in DoD task-ordered research in respect to the military atrocities happening domestically and abroad.

We further request that the BoR return more autonomy and oversight on the research being done through the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) as part of the U.A.R.C. Students and community to provide input on the research conducted here at this University which per its Strategic Plan seeks to serve.

Upon codification of the draft Senate Resolution, our office will provide a copy to the Regents.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama
111th ASUH President

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822

In the Senate
February 8th, 2024

Senate Resolution 06-24
For First Reading

A RESOLUTION

**DEMANDING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I NO LONGER SERVE AS A UNIVERSITY
AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTER**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS,* the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 12,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS,* during the late 1960s the University of Hawai'i via contract with the army conducted weapons testing of Agent Orange on the island of Kaua'i which some researchers developed significant health impacts¹; and
- WHEREAS,* In 1961 President Eisenhower in his farewell address warned, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist...the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity... The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded. Yet in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to the equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific technological elite"²; and
- WHEREAS,* In 1967 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr at the National Conference on New Politics referenced militarism as one of the three evils of an

¹ Kever, Beverly Deepe. "University Vulnerable to Pitfalls of Secret Experiments." *Star Bulletin*, 27 Mar. 2005, archives.starbulletin.com/2005/03/27/editorial/special2.html.

² Eisenhower, Dwight D. "President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address (1961)." *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration, www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/president-dwight-d-eisenhowers-farewell-address. Accessed 8 Feb. 2024.

afflicted society, and further states, “when scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.”³; and

WHEREAS, from the late 1990s to early 2000s University of Hawai‘i (UH) faculty were concerned on the implication classified research would have on academic freedom⁴; and,

WHEREAS, in 2005, ASUH passed Senate Resolution 11-05, which urged the University of Hawai‘i to abandon establishing a University Affiliated Research Center (U.A.R.C); and,

WHEREAS, prior to the proposal of UH as a U.A.R.C UH officials including personnel of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) were implicated in a Navy Criminal Investigation for contract fraud;⁵ and,

WHEREAS, these individuals were proponents of the U.A.R.C; and

WHEREAS, in April 2005, students and faculty conducted a seven-day sit-in at Bachman Hall in opposition to military research at the University and to the establishment of a U.A.R.C⁶; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2005, the Mānoa Faculty Senate passed a resolution calling for the University to not establish a U.A.R.C⁷; and

WHEREAS, On November 21, 2005, on an episode of *Island Insights*, the Vice-Chancellor Gary Ostrander refuted claims saying, “...it's not set-up to do weapons... we do not see this as military research in the sense of developing weapons...”⁸; and

WHEREAS, Vice-Chancellor Ostrander, further concluded that the telescopes on Mauna Kea would not be utilized for military use⁹; and

³ “The Three Evils of Society by Martin Luther King Jr.” *Northwest Educational Service District 189*, NWESD 189, 20 Jan. 2021, www.nwesd.org/ed-talks/equity/the-three-evils-of-society-address-martin-luther-king-jr/.

⁴ Abott, Bart. “Faculty Wants in on Classified Research Group.” *Ka Leo O Hawai‘i*, 24 Apr. 2002, pp. 1–2.

⁵ United States, Department of the Navy. FOIA 5720 F07-0028, 18, Aug. 2008, pp.1-25.

⁶ Grass, Julie. “UARC Protesters Sit-in at Bachman Hall.” *Mānoa Now*, 29 Apr. 2005, www.manoanow.org/kaleo/news/bachman-hall-sit-in/article_73a11006-ecb6-11e9-a4bd-8b0c21918576.html.

⁷ Tolentino, Blaine. “Faculty Senate Passes Resolution Opposing UARC.” *Ka Leo O Hawaii*, ManoaNow, 17 Nov. 2005, www.manoanow.org/faculty-senate-passes-resolution-opposing-uarc/article_96ea3efd-0893-5184-9d34-edb2545a00d6.html.

⁸ Harris, Michael., Glenn. Yamamoto, Dan. Boylan, Ruth. Dawson, Ikaika. Hussey, and Gary Kent. Ostrander. *UARC*. Honolulu, Hawaii: [Wong Audiovisual Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa], 2015.

⁹ *Ibid*.

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2005, Chancellor Konan of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa rejects U.A.R.C at Mānoa; and

WHEREAS, On January 20, 2006, a majority of students and faculty opposed U.A.R.C, as well as a petition submitted in opposition of about 170 signatures in opposition from William S. Richardson School of Law¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, In March 2006, over 200 students and community members gathered outside of Bachman Hall to oppose U.A.R.C and military research¹¹; and

WHEREAS, On September 26, 2007, students and faculty attempted to submit a report, *The Dirty Secret About UARC*¹² but were locked out of Bachman Hall¹³ this report was received by University Public Affairs official¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, in the reports by Save UH/Stop UARC Coalition, the U.A.R.C’s origins are tied to individuals as mentioned above RCUH and UH officials who were under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Services N.C.I.S for contract fraud¹⁵; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2007, despite opposition from students and faculty, and testifiers expressing concern on “classified” research, task orders, and academic freedom, the UH Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) as an administrative unit in the UH System¹⁶; and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i therefore became the first Naval U.A.R.C to be established since President Franklin D. Roosevelt¹⁷; and

¹⁰ Tanaka, Carolyn. “Advocates and Opponents of the Proposed UARC Contract Present Their Case to the UH Board of Regents.” *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa*, 23 Jan. 2006, Accessed 8, February, 2024 <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=1321>.

¹¹ Tolentino, Blaine. “Protestors Rally at Bachman Hall Again.” *Ka Leo O Hawai‘i*, 16 Mar. 2006, pp. 1-3

¹² Kajihira, Kyle. “The Dirty Secret about UARC.” *DMZ Hawaii*, 16 Mar. 2006, www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf.

¹³ Hill, Tiffany. “One Day until Regents Decide on UARC.” *Ka Leo O Hawaii*, 26 Sept. 2007, www.manoanow.org/one-day-until-regents-decide-on-uarc/article_b87694f2-8fa0-540b-8ab0-48be4a473922.html.

¹⁴ Cole, William. “Military Research on Hawaii Campus Opposed: The Honolulu Advertiser: Hawaii’s Newspaper.” *Honoluluadvertiser.Com*, 26 Sept. 2007, www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Sep/26/In/hawaii709260398.html.

¹⁵ *Ibid*.

¹⁶ Board of Regents’ Meeting Minutes, 27-28 Sept. 2007, accessed Feb. 8, 2024, <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/regular/minute/20070927.regular.pdf>

¹⁷ Field, Kelly. “Navy Lab Plan at U. of Hawaii Gets Broadside From Critics.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10 Feb. 2006, www.chronicle.com/article/navy-lab-plan-at-u-of-hawaii-gets-broadside-from-critics/.

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2013, President Greenwood approved the extension of the U.S Navy contract with ARL¹⁸ without public input; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2018, the BoR Committee on Research and Innovation was provided meeting material that stated the next contract would include a security level of “top secret”¹⁹; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2018, rather than question the militarization of the University and the research being conducted, members of the BoR instead questioned the optimization of resources²⁰; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2018, Honolulu Civil Beat reported that ARL was preparing to renew a contract that would include “top secret” research and that 30% of Classified research was on Cybersecurity²¹; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2019, ARL was awarded a \$72,209,225 five-year Indefinite Delivery/ Indefinite Quantity contract from Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA) to receive task-ordered research; and

WHEREAS, following the new contract, ARL anticipates a fourfold increase in annual revenue²²; and

WHEREAS, in May 2020, ARL was awarded a \$75,000,000 contract with the Air Force Research Laboratory for the Maui High-Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) to be completed in 2024²³; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Annual Report of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) it revealed that since its inception 96% of the U.A.R.C has been directly funded by military agencies; and

WHEREAS, President Lassner is a principal investigator on the MHPCC, the largest contract for ARL to date, and other DoD Funded contracts²⁴; and

¹⁸ Trifonovitch, Kelli Abe. “UH Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) Contract Extended.” *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa*, 16 July 2013, www.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=5863.

¹⁹Board of Regents’ Meeting Minutes, 7 October, 2021, pp. 15, accessed Feb. 8, 2024, https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/research/materials/201805241030/Cmte_on_Research_and_Innovation_05_24_18_Meeting_Materials_FOR_UPLOAD.pdf

²⁰ Board of Regents’ Contracts and Grants Award FY 2023 Q3 Report, 03 October, 2018, accessed February 8, 2024, <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/research/minute/201810031000.committee.pdf>

²¹ Lovell, Blaze. “‘Top Secret’ Clearance Expected for UH Lab Doing Navy Research.” *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 28 Dec. 2018, www.civilbeat.org/2018/12/top-secret-clearance-expected-for-uh-lab-doing-navy-research/.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Board of Regents’ Meeting Minutes, 7 October, 2021, pp. 15, accessed Feb. 8, 2024 https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/research/materials/202110071200/Cmte_on_Research_and_Innovation_10_07_2021_Materials.pdf

²⁴ “David Lassner.” *University of Hawaii System*, Accessed 8 Feb. 2024, www.hawaii.edu/leadership/david-lassner/

WHEREAS, according to the FY2023 Quarter 3 consolidated report on Contracts and Grant awards provided to the Board of Regents the United Kingdom InfaRed Telescope has been awarded DoD contracts²⁵; and

WHEREAS, the ASUH reaffirms its opposition to the establishment of U.A.R.C and the conduct of classified military research within the UH System; and

WHEREAS, the ASUH reaffirms its support of Academic Freedom; and now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH demands transparency on all research being conducted at a Public Institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUH shall fill out the Presidential Search Survey, demanding that the next UH President works with the Board of Regents to terminate and discontinue the U.A.R.C contract and status of the University of Hawai‘i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUH requests the next President not be allowed to conduct research projects associated with the Department of Defense (DoD) and its various agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents reduce the autonomy granted to the UH President, and provide more oversight and public transparency over the operations of the UH System; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be submitted to the UH President David Lassner, the Board of Regents, the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus, Chair Amy Perruso of the House Higher Education Committee, Chair Donna Mercado Kim of the State Higher Education Committee, Congressman Ed Case, Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, Senator Brian Schatz, and Senator Mazie Hirono.

INTRODUCED BY



²⁵ Board of Regents' Contracts and Grants Award FY 2023 Q3 Report, 20 April, 2023.

Kyson James-Foree
Introducing Member
Senator of College of Arts and Sciences