



Testimony for UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities Meeting, 5/24/18

Debbie Ogata-Arakaki <ogataara@hawaii.edu>

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 8:25 AM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

Please find attached my written testimony for UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities to be held on May 24, 2018, 1:30 pm.

Mahalo,
Debbie Ogata-Arakaki

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**May 22, 2018
01:30 PM
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Information Technology Building
1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B
2520 Correa Rd**

To: UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

**From: Debbie Ogata-Arakaki, RN
Unit Coordinator, Hawaii Center for AIDS, JABSOM**

Re: JABSOM Parking Situation

Position: Strongly support establishment of new Kaka'ako Parking Zone and Rates as proposed by JABSOM and to approve its addition to the general Board of Regents meeting agenda in June 2018.

Dear Chair and Members of the UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

I strongly support the establishment of new Kaka'ako Parking Zone and Rates as proposed by JABSOM be heard during the June 2018 University of Hawai'i Board of Regents meeting. The parking situation at JABSOM is very limited with little available street parking within a 2 mile radius. As an increasing number of condominiums are erected in Kaka'ako, this problem will only escalate. For JABSOM to remain sustainable, long-term affordable and viable parking solutions must be investigated. Many of the JABSOM employees earn less than their private sector counterparts in downtown and shouldn't be punished financially because we choose to work in the health care field.

I urge you to have a vigorous discussion on this matter and to approve its addition to the general Board of Regents meeting agenda in June 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

testimony - V Ruthig Kaka'ako Parking

Victor Ruthig <vruthig@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 11:26 AM

To whom it may concern,

Attached please find a PDF of my BOR testimony related to the Kaka'ako parking crisis.

Mahalo,
Victor

Victor A. Ruthig, Ph.D.
Post Doctoral Fellow
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 **VRuthig2018BORKakaakoParkingTestimony.pdf**
257K

May 23, 2018

Dear Members of the UHM BOR,

As an alumnus of the Developmental & Reproductive Biology Program based in the Anatomy Biochemistry and Physiology Department at JABSOM, I retain a keen interest in issues involving Hawai'i's sole medical school. During my time as a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), I served as a Graduate Student Organization (GSO) representative for my department and a GSO executive council member from 2013 to 2015, and as the graduate student representative to the JABSOM Executive Committee from 2014 to 2016. During this time I was the GSO representative to the UHM Commuter Services Advisory Committee, and I personally witnessed the changes that occurred when JABSOM lost possession of parking lot C in 2013. The most detrimental of these changes were the daily added stress of limited parking and the cyclic stress of scrambling to acquire one of the limited parking passes each semester. To make matters worse the limited parking available also became significantly more unsafe with the cessation of patrols. The problems that arose as consequence, compelled me to work with a group of graduate students to create and circulate a JABSOM parking survey in 2014. Many of the survey respondents expressed anger that the university did not provide adequate and safe parking options near JABSOM. Although circumstances have evolved somewhat since then, it is clear that parking at JABSOM continues to be a major source of frustration among students, faculty, and staff.

Even when I was a graduate student, there was keen awareness that plans for continued development in Kaka'ako would turn open parking lots into premium real estate. Now that construction of the technology park has begun, the JABSOM community waits with apprehension for the impending closure of their primary parking lot. It is unfortunate that a realistic plan to mitigate this loss has not yet been conceived or implemented, but it is imperative that the university act quickly to ensure that those who study, teach, research, and work at JABSOM are provided basic services such as reliable and affordable parking so that they can continue to fulfill the university's mission. As an alumnus who previously worked on addressing these problems, I sincerely hope that the administration can take meaningful steps toward resolving the issue of parking at JABSOM.

This past April I returned to O'ahu to give an alumni seminar about my postdoctoral studies at Duke at my old department. While visiting UHM I also had meetings with previous classmates, faculty, and administrators. Among the topics discussed was the continued parking crisis facing the Mānoa but especially the Kaka'ako campus. I was dismayed by the personal accounts of all the negative impacts that continue to compound during the parking decline that plagues my old colleagues. This will continue to be an added facet that further complicates recruitment to

JABSOM. In the most recent US News and World Reports on best medical schools JABSOM achieved 59th ranking in primary care and 41st ranking in research. The jump in ranking was a huge achievement for JABSOM and was in spite of the more basic challenge of daily parking issues facing many members of the JABSOM community. Imagine what JABSOM could achieve if parking was not a constant stressor.

Again, the most worrying part about the projected changes to Kaka'ako is the negligent underestimation of how much parking is needed. All of the construction that took place during my time as a graduate student at JABSOM seemed to disregard the fact that most of the users of a building will need parking to utilize the resource. I implore you, please find a solution that provides reliable and affordable parking to the JABSOM community so that they can do their work.

Warmest regards,



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Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Testimony - Unsatisfactory parking at Jabsom

Celeste Yergin <yergin@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 1:00 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a postdoc based at Manoa who uses the high-level biocontainment BSL3 facility at JABSOM. There have been several occasions when I could not find parking because the auxiliary lot, numbered stalls in lot C, and street parking (metered spots or otherwise) were all taken. The closest free metered spots I found were near the intersection of Ward and Ala Moana.

As I work in BSL3, it takes about 15-20 minutes just to prep and enter and at least 15 minutes to decontaminate and exit. It is not feasible to use two-hour metered spots, especially if they are a 10- to 15-minute walk away. It is unreasonable to have to feed the meter every two hours to complete only one hour of work at a stretch.

In addition, I cannot be watching the clock as I perform experiments, especially when they involve infectious microorganisms and high-level biocontainment work.

I hope you recognize the difficulties faced by researchers like myself due to the parking restraints at JABSOM and are able to find a solution that allows us to focus on work and not parking.

Best,

Sent from my iPad



UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities: JABSOM and Cancer Center parking

Joanna Kettlewell <jmkettle@hawaii.edu>

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 12:57 PM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

The following is meant to be written testimony for the UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities meeting on 5/24/18.

To Whom It May Concern:

The following concerns I am about to express to you are from the perspective of a graduate student. As you are aware, LOT C on the Kaka'ako campus is currently being developed. This means a reduction in stalls, which are already difficult to obtain. The confirmed increase to "market rates" creates a loophole for HCDA to charge more than the proposed increase to \$100 a month. This is a concern for me as graduate students at UH are paid less than the national average, which hovers around \$25,000. My personal take-home income is \$16,000. At the proposed \$100 a month, this would mean that the cost for parking out of my take-home salary is 7.5%, when my income is already deemed by Housing and Urban Development "low or very low income". Furthermore, my requirements as a graduate student mean work hours outside 9am-5pm. For instance, if a patient is scheduled for a blood draw at 4pm, I may not receive the sample in the laboratory until 7pm or later. Thus, it is vital that any parking available to graduate students is available 24/7 and not requiring an exorbitant extra fee.

It was brought up at a parking meeting at JABSOM that at most institutions, students are not a priority when it comes to parking. I want to address this comment. At other institutions, this may be the case. However, incoming students are made aware of other options for transit available to students at acceptance to the institution. For instance, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, students are told *at acceptance day* that a shuttle is available to bus students from certain neighborhoods directly to campus. This does not occur with incoming students at JABSOM. And while there are shuttles in existence at UH, they do not include a stop at JABSOM. To add to the bind in travel, a survey was recently sent out about city bus passes. "How often do you use the bus?" the survey asked. If the University is considering altering and/or removing the arrangement with the city bus system so that students pay a reduced amount in their fees, this further reduces transportation options available to students. I personally take the bus often. In my first year of my PhD program, it was my ONLY means of transportation. The UH bus pass allowed me a cost-effective and convenient way to get to work. And while the bus might be a fall-back option for me, there are many faculty, staff, and students who live across the island and not in the metro area. For them, bus transportation is cumbersome, unreliable, and largely not an option.

The University has failed to plan for future needs at every opportunity since the building of the Cancer Center, which currently sets half-empty. As of Monday, May 21st, the ancillary parking lot that is mauka of the Children's Discovery Center on Ohe Street is no longer available when the contract with HCDA ends on August 31, 2018. This lot is used for faculty, staff, and students who have UH Manoa parking permits and park for free when they are on the Kaka'ako campus. It is also used for faculty who reside at our hospitals but teach at the medical school throughout the month. With every day that passes, the parking situation at JABSOM becomes more dire. Faculty, staff and students cannot wait years for a parking structure to be built. An interim solution is absolutely necessary until a long-term solution can be put into place.

I hope you take these concerns seriously and move forward with a sense of urgency. Thank you for your time.

Joanna Kettlewell, B.S.

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Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Testimony regarding JABSOM parking (UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities Meeting on May 24)

Eleanore Chuang <eleanore@hawaii.edu>

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 1:28 PM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

To the UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities:

In August 2017, I graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) with a PhD from the Department of Tropical Medicine at JABSOM. In November 2017, I began a postdoctoral fellowship in Tropical Medicine at JABSOM. As a postdoctoral fellow, my salary is roughly double that of a graduate assistant, but it is well below the national average, and I still cannot afford "affordable housing" in Kaka'ako. What I could afford as a graduate assistant and what I can afford as a postdoctoral fellow is the East-West Center dormitory on campus at Manoa. If I were to move off campus, most of the additional salary I earn as a postdoctoral fellow would go toward rent.

So I live at Manoa and work at JABSOM. But after becoming a postdoc, I could not purchase a regular parking permit on either side. On the morning of the committee meeting, I will wake up by 6AM to leave Manoa before parking tickets are issued, arrive at JABSOM one to two hours before most other employees, and pay the daily rate to park in Lot C. To attend the committee meeting midday, I will park in Zone 20 and pay the daily rate at Manoa. I will probably have to pay for parking again when I return to JABSOM after the meeting. When I return to the East-West Center dormitory at night, I will use an evening permit, which is the only vehicle permit I am allowed to purchase at Manoa. I will have paid for parking four times at the same university over a 24-hour period. Unfortunately, this is not a completely unique situation. Undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff face similar circumstances when commuting between Manoa and Kaka'ako to attend or teach classes, attend seminars or meetings, or conduct research.

Before UH lost possession of parking lot C in 2013, there was a single parking permit that allowed faculty, staff, and students to park at both campuses. Now that Manoa and JABSOM have separate passes, parking has become such a hassle that some faculty have decided not to teach classes or attend meetings at the other campus. This impedes cross-campus course instruction, collaboration, and research. Lack of a universal parking permit also places undue financial strain on students, who can least afford additional parking costs. In essence, the two campuses are treated as different schools instead of a single university with a single mission.

Since construction in parking lot C has already begun, we know that the availability of parking at JABSOM will continue to deteriorate. I worry that students, who are already at the bottom of the organizational ladder will be the ones disproportionately affected. We need your help to resolve the problems with parking for all Kaka'ako-based faculty, staff, and students, but students particularly need your support to ensure that they can focus on studying and research, not on parking and strained personal finances.

Sincerely,
Eleanore Chuang



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

testimony

Cris Milne <cmilne@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 1:30 PM

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**May 22, 2018
01:30 PM
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Information Technology Building
1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B
2520 Correa Rd**

To: UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

**From: Cris Milne, RN
Hawaii Center for AIDS, JABSOM**

Re: JABSOM Parking Situation

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Dear Chair and Members of the UH Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

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I urge you to have a vigorous discussion on this matter and to approve its addition to the general Board of Regents meeting agenda in June 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.