



Testimony - BOR Committee on Planning and Facilities - Nov 3, 2022

1 message

Kaleihii'iikapoli Rapoza <kaleihii@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 12:17 PM

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony submitted by the USGS for Agenda Item IV.D. at the 11/3/22 BOR Planning and Facilities Committee meeting, regarding the Long-Term Use and Occupancy Agreement with the USGS. Mahalo



Kalei Rapoza

Interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, UH Hilo

(808) 932-7650 | kaleihii@hawaii.edu

hilo.hawaii.edu/leadership/administrative/

 **UH USGS letter 2 Nov_final.pdf**
280K



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Volcano Science Center
4230 University Drive Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99508

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 2, 2022

To: Committee Chairperson Nahale-a, Vice-Chair Westerman, and members of the University of Hawai'i, Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

From: Aimee M. Devaris, USGS Regional Director for Alaska
Jill B. Rolland, USGS Regional Director for the Northwest & Pacific Islands

Cc: Brian Wachter, USGS Chief, Office of Management Services

SUBJECT: The Long-Term Use and Occupancy Agreement between the University of Hawai'i and the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey for a Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center facility in Hilo

The U.S. Geological Survey would like to express its strong support for co-location of the new USGS research facility and the University of Hawai'i, Hilo campus. Below, we comment on past and current USGS engagement with UH-Hilo staff and students, and on some of the many ways the new facility will enhance that relationship to benefit the USGS and the entire University of Hawaii system.

The new facility will house two USGS science programs, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) and the Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center (PIERC).

HVO is one of the world's preeminent institutions engaged in volcano monitoring, research, and hazard assessment. HVO has long valued the participation and involvement of academic partners and students in all aspects of its operation. UH-Hilo and Manoa faculty have contributed directly to HVO scientific and emergency response activities, work that has often included undergraduates in both paid and volunteer positions. Students and faculty often participate in fieldwork, research projects, and attend HVO staff meetings to discuss the state of Hawaii's active volcanoes. Many UH students from both the Hilo and Manoa campuses have gone on to receive graduate degrees and employment with USGS and academic institutions around the world. Notably, during the 2018 eruption and the loss of the main HVO building in the National Park, HVO staff worked out of the UH-Hilo geology department, a testimony to longstanding mutual support and program integration. HVO and other USGS volcanologists also serve as instructors at the annual Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes International Course, a highly successful program sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the USGS-USAID funded Volcano Disaster Assistance Program. Finally, HVO has benefited from a multi-year cooperative agreement with the University of Hawai'i, a program led by faculty member Don Thomas, that has supported collaborative research, student training, and investment in research equipment for mutual benefit.

Co-location and a move from Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to Hilo will enhance all these activities by reducing commute time for UH-Hilo faculty and students, allowing for more face-to-face interaction. Students and faculty will have access to modern laboratory equipment and to the constant stream of international experts who visit Hawaii to study active volcanism. Opportunities for seminars, field trips, and mentoring relationships between HVO scientists and students will be enhanced. Co-location of HVO and PIERC will also provide interdisciplinary opportunities for students whose interest straddles life and earth science.

PIERC also has a long history of collaboration with UH-Hilo in the pursuit of world-class research projects. PIERC is a primary supporter of the Hawai'i Cooperative Studies Unit at UH-Hilo (HCSU: <https://hilo.hawaii.edu/hcsu/>) and HCSU currently employs 19 HCSU staff members (including student interns, field staff, and PhD-level researchers) under a number of cooperative agreements with PIERC. USGS and university staff leverage their capacities to provide science to support and implement sound management and conservation of biological resources in Hawai'i and other Pacific-island locations. PIERC has also been a strong supporter of the Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) based at UH-Hilo, and our scientists have hosted many interns over the years, many of whom have gone on to obtain resource-management positions in Hawai'i and the Pacific. Most recently, PIERC and HCSU entered into a new cooperative agreement to support 9-month Future Workforce Fellowships to promote in-depth research participation by recent graduates from Pacific islands; both of our 2022 Fellows are UH-Hilo grads.

PIERC and our HCSU colleagues have long occupied facilities in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, but these facilities are outdated and geographically isolated. The new facility proposed for the Nowelo Street location will include greatly improved and modernized laboratories and research spaces. The new location will allow more regular in-person meetings with the top-notch ecological researchers at UH-Hilo and with HCSU program managers based on campus. We will also be better able to provide work-study, internship, and student contract opportunities to more UH-Hilo students in the new location, especially because the building is being designed for collaborative work.

In summary, the construction of a new USGS building in such close proximity to UH-Hilo will strengthen our longstanding relationship with the University and greatly expand opportunities for interaction with students, faculty, and the community.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Aimee M. Devaris
USGS Regional Director for Alaska

Jill B. Rolland
USGS Regional Director for the Northwest &
Pacific Islands

Testimony - BOR Committee on Planning and Facilities - Nov 3, 2022

1 message

Kaleihii'ikapoli Rapoza <kaleihii@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 3:07 PM

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony submitted by Dr. Pat Hart, UH Hilo Professor and Chair, Dept of Biology, for Agenda Item IV.D. at the 11/3/22 BOR Planning and Facilities Committee meeting, regarding the Long-Term Use and Occupancy Agreement with the USGS.

I am unsure if Dr. Hart submitted this directly

Mahalo



Kalei Rapoza

Interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, UH Hilo

(808) 932-7650 | kaleihii@hawaii.edu

hilo.hawaii.edu/leadership/administrative/



USGS building support_Hart.docx

27K

University of Hawai'i
Board Of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

2 November 2022

Dear Regents

I am writing to express my strong support for an agreement between the University of Hawai'i and United States Geological Survey for construction of a new USGS facility on lands above the UH Hilo campus. Having USGS scientists so close to the UH Hilo campus would be of enormous benefit to our faculty and students.

USGS-PIERC scientists conduct applied ecological research that is extremely relevant to the place-based learning approach that is so important to the mission of UH Hilo. As a Professor of Biology at UH Hilo, I have long-held and very important collaborations with USGS scientists, including Drs. Carter Atkinson, James Jacobi, Dennis Lapointe, Richard Camp, Renee Bellinger, Katherine McClure, and Thane Pratt, all of whom work on basic biological problems relevant to conservation and management (e.g., endangered species, invasive species, ecosystem services). Through these collaborations, PIERC scientists have provided scientific expertise, mentorship, and work opportunities to many graduate and undergraduate students at UH Hilo. Their depth of experience in wildlife conservation and management is beyond what we have on staff at this university. Having their new facility in close proximity to ours would surely increase the scientific research opportunities for our students and faculty.

Other federal agencies that have facilities on the lands mauka of UH Hilo include USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (PBARC) and USDA Forest Service Institute for Pacific Island Forestry (IPIF). Scientists at both facilities provide a wealth of important research, mentoring, and job opportunities for many of our students, and I am confident that a USGS facility in that location would further expand on this, and be another reason for students to choose to attend this University. I sincerely hope you move forward with USGS to build this facility!

Mahalo



Patrick Hart
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Biology
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
200 W. Kāwili Street
Hilo HI 96720
ph. 808-932-7182
Office: STB 115

pjhart@hawaii.edu

<http://LOHElab.org>

[ManuMinute on Hawaii](#)

[Public Radio](#)

Testimony for Committee on Planning and Facilities

1 message

Kris Roney <ksrone@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 5:39 PM

Aloha,

Please find attached late testimony for the committee regarding support for PIERC and HVO at UH Hilo.

Mahalo!

Peace,
Kris

--



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
HILO

Kris Roney, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
ksrone@hawaii.edu | Tel: (808) 932-7332
University of Hawai'i at Hilo, [200 W. Kāwili St., Hilo, HI, 96720-4091](#)
hilo.hawaii.edu



YOUR JOURNEY IS OUR FOCUS

 **BoR Committee PIERC and HVO.pdf**
171K



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
HILO

2 November 2022

University of Hawai'i
Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities

Dear Committee Chairperson Nahale-a, Vice-Chair Westerman, and members of the Board of Regents Committee on Planning and Facilities,

I am writing today to submit my full and enthusiastic support for the request to approve a long-term lease and occupancy agreement between the University of Hawai'i and the Department of the Interior with the intent of housing the USGS Hawai'i Volcano Observatory (UVO) and the Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center (PIERC) on the UH Hilo campus. I bring my support in my capacity as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UH Hilo, with an eye toward what this extraordinary opportunity can mean for our campus and island community. Dr. Ostertag's support letter lays out many of the scores of opportunities available, and I believe her vision of what this opportunity can bring is apt. This is, as she notes, a "win-win." Such a co-location builds on long-standing partnerships and assists in developing new and considerable educational benefits for the good of the students, faculty, island, state, and beyond. This is a unique opportunity in a unique environment, and I strongly urge the committee to support this request.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Roney'.

Kris Roney
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Hilo