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## Testimony for June 18 meeting abrogation of Hangar 111 contract

1 message

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**Peter Forman** <pforman@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 9:49 AM

Dear Board of Regents members:

Should the regents choose to approve the abrogation of the Hangar 111 contract and use \$11 million of state money to do so, I suggest that the University receive some guidance from the regents regarding what is an acceptable use of that facility.

Specifically, that facility should only be used for aviation purposes. You may not be aware that for several years now, the Hawaii Department of Transportation- Airports Division has been effectively removing general aviation businesses from the Island of Oahu. The DOT-A is primarily interested in extracting maximum revenue from airport lands, and is willing to accept large sums from the FAA for airport use. Unfortunately, the DOT-A has never understood that the purpose of those FAA funds is to make a broad range of aviation activities affordable on public airports. Instead, the flight schools, charter businesses, and hangar rentals for light planes keep disappearing as rents go through the roof.

The problem with Hawaii airports has become so severe that the state is no longer capable of training an adequate number of pilots to suit demand within the state. Once the country recovers from COVID 19, the worldwide pilot shortage will return, and Hawaii will need a sufficient number of pilots to fly passengers to the smaller neighbor islands, plus provide Air Ambulance and other vital services, as well.

I know there's tremendous demand for quality collegiate flight training because while serving as the Program Coordinator for Honolulu Community College's Commercial Aviation program, I saw how quickly such a program could grow once the serious deficiencies of the program were corrected. We went from 1 graduate a year to 5 graduates in the year prior to the end of that program. We were on track to graduate 12 graduates the year after graduating 5, but unfortunately when the University pulled the plug on that program the senior students for the most part transferred elsewhere. Nonetheless, Oahu has the potential for attracting many dozens of aviation program students, and if Hangar 111 can be used as part of the UH Hilo flight program, that potential can be realized in the future.

Step back for a moment and realize that Hawaii's DOT-A is doing everything it can to discourage flight training and light plane aviation on Oahu. The state now lacks the commercial flight schools capable of training students in serious numbers. Nationwide, commercial flight training programs have been losing students to the more attractive university flight programs. In most states a flight program run by the university is the primary means of training future commercial pilots. Moreover, well-trained flight instructors of a university flight program then migrate into the commercial flight schools and increase the quality of training, which increases the safety of flight in the region.

You, the regents, have the ability to magnify the problems in the state being created by the Hawaii DOT-A or you can give aviation a chance to rebound. Kalaeloa Airport is the only airport on Oahu (where most the students reside) that can support serious flight training activities, and recently Hangar 110 has been slated for lease to the National Institute of Health for non-aviation purposes. That move leaves Hangar 111 at Kalaeloa Airport as the final location for preserving decent flight training activities in the state. Allow that building to be used for non-aviation purposes and you are sealing the fate of the state to become a backwater for flight training that enables our young people to get great jobs and for a university program to seriously improve the quality (and therefore long-term safety to air travelers) of flight training.

Therefore, I urge you to provide some broad guidance to the University's use of Hangar 111. In your approval of abrogation, please state that Hangar 111 shall continue to be used for aviation purposes. Allow the University to gain revenue from miscellaneous aviation uses, but favor proposals that allow joint use of the facility with a University of Hawaii, Hilo, flight program. I cannot emphasize the harm that will come to the aviation-minded young people and the traveling public of this state if flight training is squeezed out of Hangar 111 once again. The DOT-A has taken a position of high bidder carries the day. Let's hope the University of Hawaii takes a more responsible position that balances the needs of the community with the needs for revenue generation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Forman

**LATE TESTIMONY**

BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## JABSOM Tropical Medicine Clinical Laboratory

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**SANDRA CHANG** <sandrac@hawaii.rr.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 9:54 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing in support of approval of the contract between the City and County of Honolulu and UH Manoa to establish the Tropical Medicine Clinical Laboratory at JABSOM. As we see the number of COVID-19 cases increase in Hawai'i and the rest of the nation in order to reopen the economy, the need for additional options to increase our capacity for COVID-19 diagnostic testing is very clear. JABSOM has the expertise and commitment to contribute to testing efforts to control the transmission and spread of COVID-19 in Hawaii, and this laboratory will be dedicated to this critical mission.

While there are many things we cannot control during this COVID-19 pandemic, we know that detecting and stamping out local outbreaks has worked in other countries and can work here. I strongly appeal to you to alter the trajectory of this pandemic in our Hawai'i nei by supporting establishment of the Tropical Medicine Clinical Laboratory.

Mahalo,

Sandra P. Chang, PhD  
UH Manoa Alumna '73 (BS) '77 (MS)



**LATE TESTIMONY**

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Written Testimony for Agenda item A.1 - BOR meeting June 18, 2020

1 message

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**Cecilia Shikuma** <shikuma@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 3:53 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Vivek Nerurkar <nerurkar@hawaii.edu>, Debbie Ogata-Arakaki <ogataara@hawaii.edu>, Cris Milne <cmilne@hawaii.edu>

Dear Sir, I am attaching written testimony in favor of A.1 Approval of Indemnification Provisiion in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawaii to Provide COVID-19 Testing.

Thank you.

Cecilia Shikuma MD

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 **Shikuma\_Written Testimony for Agenda A.1.pdf**  
89K

# HAWAII CENTER FOR AIDS

651 Ilalo St. Suite 231, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

Date: June 17, 2020

Dear Chair Kudo,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing.

We respectfully urge you to **APPROVE** the proposed indemnification clause contained in the contract. We are members of Hawaii Center for AIDS, the Board of Regents' approved Center of Excellence for HIV/AIDS research, training and care. We have traditionally maintained a research infrastructure for clinical trials work. With the current need to rapidly develop preventive and treatment modalities for COVID-19, our group recently launched Hawaii's first clinical trial in outpatients for the treatment of COVID-19 using telmisartan.

We ask that you approve the proposed indemnification clause for the following reasons:

- **The proposal will provide a desperately needed increase in COVID-19 testing sites for Hawaii.** Everyone is aware of how important it is for our state to reopen our economy. The only way to accomplish this is to reopen our state to tourism. The only way we can do this is to have rapid COVID-19 testing available. Currently it may take anywhere from 3 to 9 days to obtain test results after they are collected. It is vital that we increase the number of tests we run and decrease the time it takes to get test results.

The existing certified labs are working very hard to meet the islands' current testing needs. If we have an increase in COVID-19 cases as predicted, it will be difficult to increase our testing capacity without more laboratories that have the expertise to test. The more options we have available to our Hawaii residents and our visitors the better.

Increasing the availability of COVID-19 testing is a benefit that the University can provide. As Hawaii's state funded University, we have a mandate to look out for the welfare of the people of Hawaii. Increasing COVID-19 testing sites will assist efforts that will allow our local residents to reclaim their jobs, our state's economy to thrive again, and increase our tax base which in turn will promote the long term fiscal viability of the University of Hawaii.

- **The proposed diagnostic clinical laboratory will promote University of Hawaii research and training opportunities and enhance our University's reputation for excellence in these areas.** From the perspective of a research unit at the medical school, we cannot emphasize the importance of having testing capacity available to conduct effective research. Having a testing site within the University of Hawaii's system will be an added bonus for research purposes. Private clinical laboratories have no need to factor in the value of research in their pricing algorithm, while it can be expected that the University-based COVID-19 laboratory will be interested in collaborating and optimizing testing to fit the needs of the research project. Hawaii will need to establish its own Hawaii-specific algorithm on how best to deliver the most accessible, affordable, high quality testing in our state and the University of Hawaii is the entity with the researchers and expertise to conduct such research. Our current

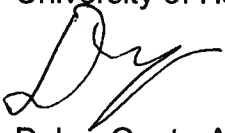
telmisartan study will require serial testing to look at viral persistence. There are new funding opportunities recently announced by the National Institute of Health and many University of Hawaii researchers, including our program's researchers, have plans to respond to these call for grant proposals. We have viewed with concern data that suggests that our Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community are at higher risk for complications due to COVID-19 compared to the white population. The University of Hawaii needs to step up to the challenge of why this is.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue and ask that you vote to approve the proposed indemnification cause in order that this critical partnership for COVID-19 testing may move forward.

Sincerely yours,



Cecilia M. Shikuma M.D.  
Edwin C. Cadman Endowed Professor of Medicine  
Director, Hawaii Center for AIDS  
John A Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawaii – Manoa



Debra Ogata-Arakaki RN  
Unit Coordinator, Hawaii Center for AIDS  
John A Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawaii – Manoa



Cris Milne RN NP  
Clinical Research Nurse, Hawaii Center for AIDS  
John A Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawaii – Manoa



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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**testimony in support for approval - Agenda Item A.1.**

1 message

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**Eileen Nakano** <etnakano@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 5:52 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, Vivek Nerurkar <nerurkar@hawaii.edu>

Sirs:

Attach, please find testimony in support of Agenda item A.1. "Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawaii to Provide COVID-19 Testing."

Should you have any questions regarding this email, please do not hesitate to email or phone (692-1612).

Respectfully,

Eileen Nakano, Ph.D.  
Research Support  
Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and Pharmacology  
JABSOM



**06172020 testimony.docx**

13K

17 June 2020

Chair Kudo:

This testimony on Agenda Item A.1., “Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawaii to Provide COVID-19 Testing”. I respectfully urge you to APPROVE the proposed indemnification clause contained in the contract.

This contract between the University of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu, it vital for the establishment of a state-of-the clinical laboratory. This contract will provide the latest equipment and patient safeguards, necessary to safely, efficiently, and with utmost confidence, perform COVID-19 testing. But more importantly, establishment of the CLIA certified clinical laboratory will expand the ability of the state to test, and going forward, have University of Hawaii researchers, along with Department of Health personnel on the front-lines ready for the next pandemic. It is essential that the University of Hawaii researchers, both PIs and graduate students always be at the cutting edge of science.

As a former resident of Hawaii, I graduated from the Roosevelt High School, Go RoughRiders, and a former employee of Hawaii Biotech, I feel, the University of Hawaii, as the only academic research institution in the State, should always support and encourage innovative, new ideas. By approving this clause, the University will benefit not only monetarily, but will provide the seed for new research endeavors. It is all of our kuleana to see the University succeed. Approval of this clause is one step toward this goal.

Respectfully,

Eileen Nakano, Ph.D.

Research Support

Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, & Pharmacology



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## Letter of Support for agenda item A.1

1 message

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**Helmut Kae** <helmut@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 8:57 PM

Hello,

I have attached a letter of support for Agenda Item A.1 at the BOR meeting scheduled for June 18. I regret that I am not able to attend to give my testimony in person, so I thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Stay safe!

Helmut Kae

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Helmut Kae, PhD  
Associate Professor, Microbiology  
Leeward Community College  
Math and Sciences Division, BS 106A  
[96-045 Ala Ike](#)  
Pearl City, HI, 96782  
[\(808\) 455-0408](#)



**H Kae letter of support TMC CC.docx**  
16K



Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

I would like to start by thanking you for the opportunity to speak in full support of agenda item A.1, Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the C&C of Honolulu and the University of Hawaii to Provide COVID-19 Testing. I regret that I cannot be there to deliver the testimony in person, but I hope to convey the importance of the task that Dr. Nerurkar and the team at the Tropical Medicine Clinical (TMC) Lab will take on as we look to recover and live in a world with COVID-19.

My name is Helmut Kae, Associate Professor in microbiology at Leeward Community College. As an educator, I speak a lot about what we as citizens can do to help us get through these turbulent times - social distancing, the wearing of masks, and self-sanitation are important for every individual to do. However, as a society, one of the most important things we can do is to test. Countries that have been able to significantly slow down the spread of COVID-19 have implemented a robust testing protocol – South Korea was testing 10,000 people per day at its peak. Given that we have such great resources and personnel here, it was shocking at how little the US was testing, and since the tests had to be shipped to a small number of testing centers around the country, the turnaround time was way too long for the data to be practical. In fact, I often remarked at how baffled I was that testing wasn't done in Hawaii, and I believe that it is critical for there to be the ability to perform COVID-19 testing in state in order to have fast and accurate data available.

My work with Dr. Nerurkar and his team have shown me that they are at the forefront of virology, and have been at the leading edge of research on viruses such as Dengue, Zika, and West Nile, amongst many others. Given their status, I have the utmost confidence in the TMC Lab to carry out their goals, and to be one of the leaders in helping Hawaii manage and control COVID-19 so that the economy can be fully reopened, allowing the people of this state to begin their recovery. And given the recent mistrust of state entities by the general public, having the University of Hawaii be an integral part of the recovery from COVID-19 would be instrumental in helping return the confidence of public institutions to the people.

The University of Hawaii's mission is to serve the people of Hawaii as its leading hub of advanced education and research. By approving the Indemnification Provision, the University would be placed in a position where they would be able to help guide the people out of one of the darkest times in recent memory, and hopefully be placed to help with future pandemics to come. So, it is without hesitation that I fully endorse the approval of the Indemnification, and I ask that you do the same. I thank you for taking the time to read this far.

Respectfully yours,



Helmut Kae  
Associate Professor, Microbiology  
Leeward Community College

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## COVID-19 testing testimony

1 message

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**Alan Katz** <katz@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 9:44 PM

Dear Chair Kudo,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing. I respectfully urge you to approve the proposed indemnification clause contained in the contract. My name is Al Katz. I am an infectious disease epidemiologist and am currently a faculty member at UH Manoa but I am speaking on my own behalf and not on behalf of the university. Some of the key benefits to be gained from approval include the following:

- This partnership between the TMC Lab and the City and County of Honolulu has already enhanced the University's reputation as a public institution serving the people of Hawai'i during the pandemic.
- A diagnostic clinical laboratory will provide access to new research opportunities and funding resources.
- A strong partnership with the City and County of Honolulu will lead to future opportunities to demonstrate the University's value as a public institution, build collaborative connections with decision makers, and serve the people of Hawai'i.
- An onsite laboratory for COVID-19 testing will be a major asset in the University's efforts to safely resume in-person instruction and research.
- The partnership will also support the University's mission to serve the people of Hawai'i and solidify the University's role as a statewide leader in public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue. And again, I ask you to please vote to approve the proposed indemnification clause in-order that this critical partnership for COVID-19 testing may move forward.

Sincerely,

Al Katz, MD, MPH

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## Testimony for BOR meeting 6/18/2020

1 message

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**Rosie Alegado** <r alegado@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 9:58 PM

Aloha,

Attached is testimony on Agenda item A.1 on tomorrow's agenda.


Mahalo,  
Rosie

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Rosie Alegado, PhD  
Associate Professor of Oceanography and the Sea Grant College Program  
[Director, Sea Grant Center of Excellence in Integrated Knowledge Systems](#)  
[Principal Investigator, SOEST Maile Mentoring Bridge Program](#)  
Community Liaison Lead, [JABSOM Tropical Medicine Clinical Laboratory](#)  
Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education  
1950 East-West Road  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 956-0565  
[rosie.alegado@hawaii.edu](mailto:rosie.alegado@hawaii.edu)  
[www.alegadolab.org](http://www.alegadolab.org)

\*\*Online meeting availability: BEFORE 9AM, AFTER 3PM\*\*

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 **2020\_06\_18 BOR Testimony\_AlegadoRA.pdf**  
84K



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June 17, 2020

**Testimony to the UH Board of Regents on Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and UH to Provide COVID-19 Testing**

Dear Chair Kudo,

Aloha, my name is Rosie 'Anolani Alegado. I am an Associate Professor of Oceanography, Director of the Sea Grant Center of Excellence in Integrated Knowledge Systems, Director of the SOEST Maile Mentoring Bridge Program and an investigator in the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa. Currently, I also serve as the Community Liaison lead for the JABSOM Tropical Medicine Clinical (TMC) Laboratory.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing.

Twelve weeks ago, my fellow UH colleagues - faculty, staff and students - and I were inspired by the work of other public universities on the mainland (University of Washington, UC Berkeley) who set up CLIA-compliant diagnostic laboratories to help their communities combat COVID-19. Observing that Hawai'i was potentially more vulnerable to this infectious disease because travelers put our populations at constant risk of exposure and our limited health care capacity, we sought to increase in-state testing capacity for rapid identification of cases. Moreover, we realized the critical need to connect translational virology research with clinical diagnosis in order to understand how this disease affects our unique island population and its communities.

With support of the City & County of Honolulu, the TMC Lab is poised to hire qualified in-state personnell, purchase necessary equipment and tests to augment in-state testing capacity. Importantly, we have established partnerships with Federal Qualified Health Centers to collect specimens from underserved and uninsured individuals across O'ahu and we have established partnerships with University Health Care Partners (UHP) and the DOH to ensure that results are securely and efficiently reported through HIPAA-secure mechanisms to both the ordering clinician and the Hawai'i DOH. The Tropical Medicine Clinical Lab will not only aid the people of Hawai'i, but by assisting in testing our residence hall students and surveillance of members of our campus, we will also play a key role in ensuring that UH can re-open safely.

The indemnification provision would mitigate risk to the City and County of Honolulu for claims related to HIPAA-secure reporting of results. The TMC has partnered with UHP to provide malpractice coverage for all individuals handling patient information and to develop a HIPAA-secure data pipeline. Without indemnification, the TMC Lab will not be able to carry out its mission.

Thus, I ask the Regents approve the proposed indemnification clause to ensure that this effort moves forward.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Handwritten signature of Rosanna Alegado in black ink.  
Rosanna Alegado

**Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents**

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Darren T Lerner

**Your Organization (optional)**

University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

lerner@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

BOR VI.A. Consent Agenda

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[BOR Testimony\\_6.17.20.pdf](#) (159.3 kB)

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## University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

2525 Correa Road • HIG 238 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 • Phone: (808) 956-7031 • <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu>

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

June 17, 2020

Re: Testimony on Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing.

Dear Chair Kudo,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the Indemnification Provision in the Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing. I respectfully encourage you to approve the proposed indemnification clause contained in the contract. Supporting resilient communities and economies is a critical component of the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) mission and the COVID-19 pandemic represents a significant and enduring threat to that resilience. Ensuring that local COVID-19 diagnostic testing capacity is robust, dynamic, and proactive is essential for restoring Hawai'i's local economy and safeguarding public health. This partnership with the City and County of Honolulu will establish the University of Hawai'i as a hub for COVID-19 testing innovation.

The proposed partnership will provide the funding necessary to establish the JABSOM Tropical Medicine Clinical (TMC) Laboratory as a federally approved diagnostic clinical laboratory at the University of Hawai'i. The TMC Lab will bring the University's considerable human resources and expertise in virology, bacteriology, parasitology, and immunology to support the people of Hawai'i in the pandemic response. The TMC Lab will integrate diagnostic testing, research, and workforce development to complement and support state public health countermeasures. The Lab will also serve as a long-term asset for the University and open doors to new research and funding opportunities.

Hawai'i Sea Grant frequently partners with County and State government agencies. In my experience these partnerships result in cutting-edge applied research and highlight the value of the University as a public serving institution. The benefits of a diagnostic clinical laboratory are of keen interest to Hawai'i Sea Grant as climate change impacts include the emergence of new infectious disease threats within the Pacific region. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and ask you to please vote to approve the proposed indemnification clause in-order that this important partnership for COVID-19 testing may move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren T. Lerner".

Darren T. Lerner, PhD  
Director

*The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education, and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation.  
Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific since 1968.*



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Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

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## Testimony in support of COVID-19 testing

1 message

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**Eleanore Chuang** <eleanore@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 7:59 PM

Dear UH Board of Regents,

I am submitting the attached written testimony in **support** of approving the indemnification provision in the contract between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to provide COVID-19 testing.

Sincerely,

Eleanore Chuang

Eleanore Chuang, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Student Immunization Initiative, Advisor  
Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



**2020-0617 Letter to UH BOR - COVID-19 testing (signed).pdf**

43K



**To:** Benjamin Asa Kudo – Chair, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
Jan Naoe Sullivan – Vice Chair, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
Wayne Higaki – Vice Chair, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
**From:** Eleanore Chuang – Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology & Pharmacology, JABSOM, UH Mānoa  
**Date:** June 17, 2020  
**Re:** COVID-19 Testing

Before moving to Hawai'i, I spent more than twelve years working as a Biologist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. During those early years, I lived through the fear instilled by anthrax letter attacks and the original SARS epidemic. Those events sparked my interest in infectious diseases and influenced my decision to study Tropical Medicine at UH Mānoa. After completing research and writing a dissertation on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and human papillomavirus (HPV) co-infection, I earned a PhD from the Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology & Pharmacology at JABSOM in 2017. Since then, my postdoctoral research has focused on development of vaccines targeting Ebola and other filoviruses. For those of us in the field of infectious diseases, the question about the next pandemic was never if but when. Just over one hundred years after the 1918 flu, a new coronavirus has emerged to devastating effect.

As an infectious disease researcher, I have been alarmed to watch COVID-19 barrel across the globe and across the United States, disheartened to witness the chaotic response that has unfolded in its wake, and frustrated to be sitting on the sidelines as the pandemic continues. As infectious disease researchers in a university setting, we have the requisite knowledge, skills, equipment, and facilities to conduct diagnostic testing for this new disease. As infectious disease researchers at a public university, we owe it to the people of Hawai'i to implement our knowledge, skills, equipment, and facilities for the public health and welfare. Other universities have taken up the mantle to augment COVID-19 testing capacity in their locales:

- Harvard University: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/03/harvard-technology-provides-early-boost-to-mass-covid-testing/>
- University of California San Francisco: <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#Is-UCSF-Health-testing-for-COVID19>
- University of Florida: <https://ufhealth.org/news/2020/uf-health-provide-coronavirus-test-and-trace-program-help-reopen-university>
- University of Utah: <https://healthcare.utah.edu/publicaffairs/news/2020/05/project-hero.php>

UH has accommodated the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) with space in the Medical Education Building at JABSOM for its emergency operations center (EOC) – an immensely sensible community-oriented solution during a public health crisis. Likewise, the UH Board of Regents should **approve the indemnification provision in the contract between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to provide COVID-19 testing.**

With the Pacific Ocean as a natural geographic barrier, Hawai'i has fortunately been spared the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the people of Hawai'i have still suffered from its public health and economic impacts. Expanding COVID-19 testing capacity in Hawai'i will facilitate re-introduction of in-person course instruction at UH, re-opening of the state to tourism, re-starting of the economy in general, and resumption of some version of post-pandemic normal life.

Sincerely,

  
Eleanore Chuang

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**Written testimony for the approval of the indemnification clause of the proposed bill of COVID-19 testing in the DTMMMP- Saguna Verma, faculty JABSOM**

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Saguna Verma <saguna@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Jun 18, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Dear Board of Regents members,

I (Saguna Verma) am a faculty at the Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology (DTMMMP). I am a virologist and immunologist by training and my research focuses on understanding immune mechanisms of different viruses and developing novel therapeutic targets.

I hereby state my strong support for the approval of the indemnification clause of the proposed bill of COVID-19 testing in the DTMMMP.

My reasons for this support are:

- i. JABSOM Tropical Medicine Clinical (TMC) Laboratory will increase the capacity of COVID-19 testing in the state of Hawaii and augment existing in-state testing capacity
- ii. Integrate diagnostic testing with research to either develop more sensitive or cost-effective assays

Personal story: My son returned from London in March first week and we decided to home quarantine him for 2 weeks. During those days, the testing was not done in the local labs and not easily accessible for potentially asymptomatic carriers like him. Those two weeks we were also worried about getting infected from him and therefore we self-quarantined ourselves at home (this was before our Governor declared work from home and mandatory quarantine for travelers). If the testing was easily available in the state of Hawaii, we could get him tested and his negative results would have allowed me to continue going to work.

A robust testing program will serve as the backbone of an effective coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic response strategy for many months to come. Establishing widespread testing, tracking, and isolating of COVID-19 cases is a critical next step in any plans to gradually loosen social isolation policies while also safeguarding public health.

I thank the committee for allowing me to present this testimony.

Aloha

Saguna Verma, Ph.D  
Associate Professor,  
Dept of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and  
Pharmacology,  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, 96813

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## Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing

1 message

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**Angela Sy** <sya@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Jun 18, 2020 at 10:04 AM

Attached please find my written testimony. Thank you

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Angela Sy, DrPH  
Assistant Professor  
*Indigenous Samoan Partnership to Initiate Research Excellent (INSPIRE)*  
*Minority Health Research Training Program (MHRT)*  
*Pacific Center for Emerging Infectious Disease Research (COBRE)*  
*Undergraduate Honors Program*  
[https://www.facebook.com/Minority-Health-Research-Training-MHRT-106917077460897/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Minority-Health-Research-Training-MHRT-106917077460897/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

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June 17, 2020

Dear Chair Kudo,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on Agenda Item A.1. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Contract Between the City and County of Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i to Provide COVID-19 Testing. I am Angela Sy with UHM John A Burns School of Medicine. I respectfully urge you to APPROVE the proposed indemnification clause contained in the contract.

This Contract will provide the necessary funding to establish a federally approved diagnostic clinical laboratory at the University of Hawai'i. A diagnostic clinical laboratory will enhance the reputation of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the John A Burns School of Medicine and provide access to new research opportunities and funding resources. Establishing a COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory would also create new opportunities for public-private partnerships, for example providing diagnostic testing services to essential workers and economic sectors heavily impacted by COVID-19. Finally a centrally located local laboratory for COVID-19 testing will be a major asset in the University's efforts to safely resume in-person instruction and research.

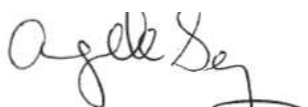
Furthermore from a community standpoint, COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory addresses the public health (and economic) needs of our local ohana. This lab would supplement State surveillance systems documenting possible trends in COVID-19 in our communities for the possibility of rapid control and response efforts. As a public health researcher affiliated with the UH Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and Pharmacology, I see constantly the connection between how diagnostic capabilities, in this case for COVID-19, can successfully influence and impact public health outcomes so as to improve the economic and social well being of our local communities

This partnership between the TMC Lab and the City and County of Honolulu has already enhanced the University's reputation as a public institution serving the people of Hawai'i during the pandemic. The partnership will support the University's mission to serve the people of Hawai'i and solidify the University's role as a statewide leader in public health. The University can continue to demonstrate this role directly benefitting our communities.

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I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue and ask that you please vote to approve the proposed indemnification clause in-order that this critical partnership for COVID-19 testing may move forward.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Sy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Sy, DrPH