



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Support for Theatre and Dance

Brittni Addison <brittni@creederep.com>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 4:48 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Hello,

It has recently come to my attention that the University of Hawaii at Manoa is considering cutting the Department of Theatre and Dance. As a graduate of this program with my MFA, I am beyond upset, disappointed, and infuriated that this is even something you would consider. It is thanks to my three years at UHM that I am now a top professional in my field. It is also because of the department that I learned to advocate for my art and speak out against injustice.

I cannot believe that in this time, when so many artists are struggling- yet so much of the world is leaning on the arts for sustenance, hope, and joy- that you would even CONSIDER making such a cut. It is not only heartbreaking; it is deeply offensive, and it is a slap in the face to every professor and student who has ever walked the halls of Kennedy Theatre.

As the Education Director of a leading regional theatre and a professional actor and director, working across the country, I would NOT be where I am without this department and the incredible professors who give their entire hearts and souls into nurturing the next generation of theatre artists day in and day out. They not only taught me fundamentals of theatre and directing, but they gave me the opportunity to grow as a teacher, arts advocate, and human-being. I came into the department insecure and unsure of my place in this world, but I left ready to lead, guide, and elevate the national discussion around the work we do.

John F. Kennedy said "The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose- and is a test of the quality of a nation's civilization."

I hope you will keep this in mind when making this decision. I trust that you will make the right one.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

--

Brittni Shambaugh Addison

Education Director, EDI Chair

Creede Repertory Theatre

Pronouns: she/her/hers

719-658-2540 x227

brittni@creederep.com*Creede Repertory Theatre*[124 North Main Street](#)[Creede, CO 81130](#)*Among the State's Top Five Theatre Companies*

-The Denver Post

One of the ten great places to see the lights way off-Broadway

-USA Today

For Company EDI Concerns and Suggestions: <https://podio.com/webforms/23051578/1640467>



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

You Must Save The Dance Department: from an Alum

Chelsea Van Billiard <chelsea.vanbilliard@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 12:21 PM

To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "covid19@hawaii.edu" <covid19@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>, "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>

Hello all,

My name is Chelsea Van Billiard and I am an alum of UHM Class of 2014. I received my BFA in Dance and Theater.

This department has changed my life and I can not let it disappear without a fight.

I came to UH knowing that I wanted to dance professionally but not really knowing a clear path. This dance department gave me the opportunity to explore new styles and cultures in dance which I would have never experienced at any other university such as Tahitian and Bharatanatyam (a classical Indian style). I received a deep understanding of technique, dance history, and most importantly the importance of community within dance. My professors cared so deeply about each and every one of us and poured their hearts and souls into their students. I also had the chance to study abroad in London at a top dance conservatory. Without all of these factors, I would never have been prepared to move into the world feeling knowledgeable and confident and so very thankful. And now, thanks to this Dance Department having fostered inspiration and leadership, I am dancing professionally for a company in San Francisco, performing with local artists, and creating my own work in the community.

The arts are so often overlooked and it is heartbreaking to hear people lessen the value of what the arts actually give to our communities. Where would anyone be in this pandemic quarantine without the arts? We are consuming television, movies, music, art, and literature while we attempt to keep our neighbors safe and remain inside. Every day these things continue to boost happiness and beauty in our lives. So how does it seem reasonable to remove the systems that are built in order to enable more artists to create and exist? IT DOES NOT.

I truly hope that the University of Hawai'i chooses not to remove Dance degrees. It would be a tragic loss and it would be a disservice to the past, present, and future members of the dance community. Please do not let this department fade away. There is too much good to offer.

Thank you for your time.

Chelsea Van Billiard



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Program Cuts Theatre and Dance

Kathy Foley <kfoley@ucsc.edu>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 5:18 PM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear UHM Provost David Lassner,

The Department of Theatre and Dance has been one of the foremost sites of training in the US, generating generations of artists and scholars who are in the forefront of Asian American Theatre, Asian Theatre research and teaching, Dance ethnology, Asian Studies, and other performance disciplines across the US and around the world. Its reputation and impact are enormous and it has been a major contribution in Asia as well as the US while also contributing enormously to the Hawaii entertainment and culture industry and doing enormous outreach across the state.

While all state university systems are in financial throes in the current situation, as a alumna and one who has in the part in the UH theatre department in the past, it would be foolhardy to throw away the hard built arts expertise and reputation that has made the institution known nationally and internationally. As a distinguished professor at University of California-Santa Cruz, I understand that institutions are all trying to prepare people for tight times, but to talk of cutting world respected programs is shocking to those of us whose careers were launched by our UH-Manoa's Theatre and Dance degrees.

Sincerely,

Kathy Foley,
PhD UHM , 1979
Distinguished Professor Theatre Arts, USCC



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of Theatre & Dance at UHM

Evan Hastings <director@theta.org.nz>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 4:16 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

Aloha David Lassner,

As a Theatre Director and Academic, I am familiar with UHM's Asian Theatre Doctoral program as well as the MA and MFA's in Theatre and Dance on offer at UHM. These are rare and valuable programs, to Hawaii, and to the world.

I understand the need "to re-make the university to be more efficient, more effective, and more directly focused on the needs of Hawaii today."

The challenge you face, is how to navigate troubled waters without losing sight of your Mission Statement, quoted here: "With its unique geographic location bridging East and West, Mānoa serves as a portal to an exceptional educational experience while striving to improve quality of life in the region through collaborative partnerships that support innovations in education, health care, social development, culture and arts, earth, space, and ocean sciences, sustainable land management, and technological advancement." (underlines are mine, added for emphasis.)

Please spare the Theatre and Dance degree programs when making cuts. To be "more efficient, more effective" perhaps consider streamlining the university bureaucracy and reducing administrative overheads.

I am sure you are busy, thanks for taking the time to read this!

Nga mihi nā,

Evan Hastings
Artistic Director
(+64) 0220700624



The Theatre In Health Education Trust



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

THEATRE AND DANCE

Allan Okubo <ayokubo@hotmail.com>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 5:05 PM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>

President David Lassner:

This email is in support of keeping the theatre and dance program at the University of Hawaii. While these are artistic programs that does not, on its face, seem to provide an economic benefit to the community one must address the benefit it brings to the welfare of the soul.

These programs allow expression and communication which releases the inhibition that plagues the majority of people and frees them to express themselves thus letting them grow into vocal, articulate human beings able to bring a voice to many subjects, not just music or dance. Being able to communicate opens more doors in the future than can be imagined. Closing these programs will damage the future of many talented children in Hawaii who hope to thrill audiences here and around the world, and it would be a shame to have them have to go away to bring glory to another institution instead of UH. Some coming out of the program have graced the stages and screens for many years, among them actors/singers such as Beth Midler and Georgia Engel, and playwrights such as Lisa Matsumoto, Edward Sakamoto and Daniel Akiyama, and directors such as James Nakamoto. The history of UH theatre and dance sets a high bar both here and abroad.

Please reconsider eliminating these programs as there are more pluses than minuses, and will free more people to vocalize themselves and thus become part of the future generation of leaders in Hawaii.

Respectfully,
Allan Y. Okubo
Class of 1973



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Fwd: UH Manoa Plans to Cut Theatre, Dance and Multiple Programs

Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 11:39 AM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, Thomas Brislin <tbrislin@hawaii.edu>, Kimi Kondo-Brown <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maryann Peterson <maryannpeterson@gmail.com>**Subject:** UH Manoa Plans to Cut Theatre, Dance and Multiple Programs**Date:** September 12, 2020 at 11:34:46 AM HST**To:** COVID19@hawaii.edu**Cc:** efisher@hawaii.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Maryann Peterson and I am a proud alum of the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2007 with a BFA in Dance Theatre.

I whole-heartedly disagree with your plan to cut programs due to stagnant enrollment. As a student of both Dance and Theatre departments, I learned a great deal about myself, including but not limited to work ethic, teamwork and how to be successful.

The UH Manoa Dance Department gave me so much. When I think back on my life, I would not change my decision to attend UH Manoa. Professors like Gregg Lizenbery, Betsy Fisher, Peggy Gaither Adams and many, many more made a profound impact on my life. As a student in the Dance Department, I made life long friendships, many of whom I am in close contact with today. My life would not be the same without any of these people.

Please do not take away these departments from future students who are ready and willing to learn and take on their roles in life and society.

Thank you for your time,

Maryann Peterson



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In support of Theatre and Dance at UHM

Shire, Kimberly <kshire@carroll.edu>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 7:11 PM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear leadership at UHM,

I am writing to ask that you continue to offer degrees in Theatre and Dance at UHM. I earned my MFA degree at UHM in Theatre in 2015, and began my career as a professor at a small liberal arts college in Helena, Montana that fall. The preparation I received at UHM made me particularly qualified for the work I do. The department and University are doing good work that you can be very proud of. I have been able to spread the love of Hawaiian culture, Asian theatre, and Theatre for Young Audiences to my students - something I could not have learned anywhere else. The unique program at UHM's graduate school is vital in passing on a love of Hawaiian theatre to the rest of the world.

I am particularly disturbed that the board of regents is considering ending these programs because I am preparing to apply to come back to complete my PhD. I have the opportunity to study at UHM while I am on my sabbatical, and would like to do so. Please vote to keep the Theatre and Dance PhD program intact.

I recognize that higher ed is dealing with an unprecedented loss of funding due to the pandemic, but the arts are a large part of our cultural identity that must continue to be studied, taught, and celebrated. Please fight for the amazing arts education UHM offers to continue its work as a beacon of Hawaiian culture to the world.

--

Aloha,

Kim Shire
Associate Professor of Theatre
Director of Theatrical Production
(cell) 503.804.0151
(office) 406.447.4308



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Please Support the Department of Theatre and Dance

Holly Chung <hmc808@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:27 AM

To: David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>, David Lassner <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>

Cc: Michael Bruno <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, Thomas Brislin <tbrislin@hawaii.edu>, Kimi Kondo-Brown <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

My name is Holly Chung. I am currently an MFA candidate in Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am a Graduate Assistant for this department.

I was born on the island of O'ahu, raised in Kane'ohe, and have been a resident of the Hawaiian islands for most of my life.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reconsider your proposal to stop-out the Dance degrees (BA/BFA/MA/MFA). The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is the only higher education academic institution in the state of Hawai'i that offers students the opportunity to earn a BA, BFA, MA, or MFA degree in dance. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa should continue to provide opportunities for students from the state of Hawai'i to pursue a degree in dance if they want to or need to stay in Hawai'i. Students from Hawai'i should not have to go to other geographic locations to study dance in higher education and to receive a degree in dance.

We currently have a world class team of dance faculty that any dance student would be excited and inspired to learn from. Our dance faculty are multi-talented and high skilled professionals who are dedicated to guiding and mentoring each and every student in our department. They constantly work towards preparing the students in the Department of Dance to go out into the world as professional artists who will educate future generations of dancers, create unique works of art that represent the state of Hawai'i, and conduct original and creative research that push the boundaries of our discipline.

President Lassner, please do not take away the opportunity to study dance and receive a degree in dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, from future generations of dancers and scholars from the state of Hawai'i and from around the world. The University of Hawai'i should be a source of growth and success for these upcoming talented, hard working artists and scholars that will go on to represent the University of Hawai'i and the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Very Sincerely and with aloha,

Holly Chung
Graduate Assistant
Department of Dance
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Testimony for this Thursday

1 message

David Duffy <dduffy@hawaii.edu>
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>
Cc: David Duffy <dduffy@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 4:39 PM

Please accept this testimony for this Thursday's meeting.

Many thanks and stay well,

David Duffy

--

David Duffy Ph.D.
Gerritt Parmele Wilder Chair
Professor
戴大偉 (Dài Dàwěi)
School of Life Sciences
University of Hawaii/**Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i**
[3190 Maile Way](#)
[Honolulu Hawaii 96822 USA](#)

 **To BOR.docx**
912K

To: The Board of Regents

From: David Duffy, Professor in the School of Life Sciences, Manoa

Re: Proposed changes at Manoa to reduce costs, increase efficiency and to respond to state needs.

Date: 20200913

I don't wish to be negative but I would like to suggest caution as the university attempts to respond to the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. This is a daunting process but one that needs to be done right, even if in the face of great uncertainty. If UH is to reduce costs and to improve efficiency while better meeting state needs, any changes to UH should be fact driven. The university's efforts in this regard appear to have been hasty, as evidenced by a casual reading of <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/provost/planning-for-post-pandemic-hawaii/>.

I am busy preparing two lectures and so my efforts are themselves rushed and so I may be misconstruing things. Just focusing on Botany which I know well, the Budget Committee suggests ending its two degree programs. This may be a good thing but the facts are not in evidence.

1. The program review cited for Botany in the College of Natural was produced in 2014. A lot has happened in six years. For example Botany merged with other departments in 2019. Stopping its degree programs seems unsupported by anything more than less than a year's data and the existing data seem suspect, as it reports **no** students in Botany during Academic Year 2017, AY2018, AY2019.

2.

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/fy17-19-ssh-and-faculty-ratios-unit-ratio.pdf>

Quantitative Health	132	41	180	118	62
Surgery	1,593	1,792	1,641	1,675	(34)
Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology & Pharmacology	669	668	622	653	(31)
Medicine Total	22,116	21,330	22,031	21,826	205
Natural Science					
Biology	15,557	15,359	15,781	15,566	215
Botany	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	16,190	16,317	16,331	16,279	52
Information & Computer Science	10,630	10,423	9,725	10,259	(534)
Math	17,771	17,603	17,219	17,531	(312)
Microbiology	4,148	3,875	3,956	3,993	(37)
Natural Science Dean's Office	0	3	0	1	(1)
Physics & Astronomy	10,788	11,064	11,028	10,960	68
Natural Science Total	75,084	74,644	74,040	74,589	(549)
Nursing					

3. There are no financial figures for any suggested actions. Are there actually any savings? Over what time frame? We might better be able to choose alternative actions with some idea of the relative savings.
4. No analysis of actual state needs: *“internal and cross-campus opportunities for organizational and program changes that can better position the university to meet the **greatest needs** of the state”* What are the greatest needs? These could/should be identified. A proxy would be an analysis of the employment prospects for BA/BS, MA/MS and PhDs in Hawaii or the current success of our graduates from different fields.
5. What is the *“student demand”* mentioned in the document? Do we have any data? In the short term, in both semesters (this fall and last spring) we switched to online from in-person. Do students prefer in-person or online, for the safety of themselves and their families? Some courses do not do well online and may also reflect the ability of faculty to teach in a new format (phlebotomy comes to mind). In the medium term, what is student demand in the midst of a pandemic? And in the longer term, our economy is in a shambles and we have little idea what our economy is going to look like for at least the next five years. We are training students for at least 40 year professional lives. My admittedly subjective and probably superficial view is that any field of study is good if it trains them to be excellent.
6. With faculty and staff working at home, UH must be saving a lot of money. Faculty and staff are subsidizing the university through paying for Internet, electricity, and space. This should be factored in through a *“Green Days”* program that reduces campus use of unused buildings and facilities. UH might also negotiate with the cable companies to achieve lower rates for faculty and staff working at home.

The Roman Emperor Augustus wrote *“Make haste slowly”*. This seems especially appropriate in the midst of a pandemic, a deep recession, and national political turmoil.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

concern about UHM Theatre and Dance programs

Linda Ehrlich <linda.ehrlich@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 6:05 AM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, Julie lezzi <lezzi@hawaii.edu>, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

President Lassner:

I just heard there is some talk about curtailing UHM's Theatre and Dance programs.

As an EWC grantee, I was fortunate to become a doctoral student under the tutelage of James Brandon and Roger Long in the UHM Department of Theatre. I have gone on to establish an international career in the study of the Japanese cinema and theatre. This wouldn't have happened without the UHM program.

What is unique about the University of Hawaii? What makes a student like myself travel so far to attend a university situated hours by plane from the mainland?

The answer is simple: unique programs like the UHM graduate program in Theatre and Dance, with a focus on Asian theatre.

If the University of Hawaii loses such graduate programs, it will become just an ordinary state school only attended by local students.

Destroying the unique nature of the University of Hawaii would make any budget cuts useless.

It would be equivalent to cutting off the torso of a patient to save his/her arms.

Dr. Linda Ehrlich

Associate Professor Emerita, Case Western Reserve University

Independent Scholar

[Braided Narrative](#)

[Amazon Author Page](#)



Degree programs at the Department of Theatre and Dance, UHM

Xing Fan <stars.fan@utoronto.ca>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 2:09 PM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Xing Fan <stars.fan@utoronto.ca>

Dear President Lassner, Dear Provost Bruno, and Dear Board of Regents,

My name is Xing Fan. I received my PhD degree in theatre from UHM in 2010. I am now an Associate Professor and Associate Director at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto.

I appreciate your invitation for email feedback on proposed changes in degree programs as the University makes post-pandemic plans. I write to voice my strongest disagreement and deepest concerns: **To cut degree programs at the Department of Theatre and Dance will cause fundamental damages to the UH legacy and leadership in the fields of drama, dance, theatre, and performance studies in the world.**

The Department of Theatre and Dance, including its Asian theatre program, at UHM is world renowned in the fields of drama, dance, theatre, and performance studies. The Asian theatre program has been a leading unit in pedagogy, scholarship, and creation in the studies of Asian drama, dance, theatre, and performance culture. At international conferences and in academic publications, people use "UH tradition" to refer to the unique approach of the Asian theatre program where practitioners are given center stage in academic discussions, where students receive a balanced exposure to theoretical training and stage experience, and where doctoral students can conduct hands-on research. This unique "UH tradition" is nurturing scholars, educators, and practitioners around the world.

With my full-hearted sympathy for the dire fiscal crisis that the University faces, I urge you to protect degree programs at the Department of Theatre and Dance. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Xing Fan

Xing Fan
Associate Professor; Associate Director, Graduate
Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies
University of Toronto



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Daniel Flores <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:12 PM

Reply-To: dflores2@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Daniel Flores
Email	dflores2@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(336) 4073813
Date	09-13-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	President Lassner, don't you practice hula? How could you do this in good faith?
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Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Daniel Flores

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UHM COVID 19 Proposed Budget Cuts

Sandra Fong <sandrafong999@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:10 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Hello,

My name is Sandra Fong and I am a proud 1996 graduate of the University of Hawaii, Manoa (UHM) dance program. I am alarmed to hear that the dance, theatre, as well as other programs, are under consideration to be cut from the degree programs. I understand that there are budgetary concerns. Other colleges and universities across the country are eliminating their arts programs, please don't let this choice be another COVID statistic. While some people may think dance is a frivolous degree, here's what the program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa has done for me...

I transferred from Leeward Community College to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I was still immature and had no idea what I wanted to do. I love languages and I loved dance, so I took classes from both departments. When I went to my first dance class, I knew I had found a home. The dance faculty made an effort to know who you are, and make you feel welcome-whether or not you are in the degree program. The classes are smaller, but it benefits the students. Instructors can assess each student to give praise and corrections before injury or bad habits are formed. The curriculum is excellent, allowing students to explore cultures outside of western dance, as well as study with well-known dancers and choreographers. During my course of study at UHM, I was able to enroll in the very first Balinese dance class. It was challenging, but I developed an appreciation for that style of dance and its difficulties. I also was able to take classes from visiting artists such as Donald McKayle, Joe Goode, Shapiro and Smith, just to name a few.

At UHM, I was given the chance to learn how to stage manage performances and to design lighting. One of the UHM grad students, John Parkinson, took me under his wing and mentored me. He, the dance professors (particularly Gregg Lizenbery), and the technical staff at Kennedy Theater are the reason why I chose to go into lighting design. They gave me opportunities to learn, make mistakes, and grow. This is priceless.

After receiving my undergraduate degree, I enrolled at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), where I earned my Master Degree in Fine Arts in theatrical lighting design. During my tenure at UNLV, I could not help but compare their programs to the ones at UHM. In my opinion, UHM's theater and dance curriculum was better than UNLV, and gave students better opportunities to learn/participate in other aspects of the performing arts. The one reason why I decided to attend UNLV, was that it had a dedicated technical theater program and UHM did not.

My training at UHM's dance program has allowed me to advance in my chosen field. Colleagues, supervisors, and choreographers are always impressed by how rapidly I pick up a dance to be able to light it and/or stage manage it. Depending on the complexity, I usually have the dance down mentally after the second time I see it. When they ask how I can do this, I proudly let them know that I studied dance at the University of Hawaii. Those that are familiar with the program are really impressed, and these skills have kept me employed. The opportunity to learn, explore, and grow is one I will never forget. I have used the skills that I developed from the dance program to work with some of the most well known entertainment organizations and artists, including Stomp, Rennie Harris, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Chippendales, George Benson, Milton Meyers, and my most current employer, Cirque du Soleil.

To say that the dance and theater programs are not necessary and not worth keeping is a mistake. Without programs like it, I would not be where I am today, and there are many others who would say the same thing. The friendships that I formed over 20 years ago at UHM are still strong. I keep in contact with many of the dance ohana, students and faculty. It's how I learned about the cuts the University is considering. Without even asking, I knew I had to write something to keep the department alive.

Please reconsider and find another way to fund the programs.

Sincerely,

Sandra L.C. Fong
Proud UHM Dance Alumna 1996



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Reconsider cuts to Academic Programs

Kara Hisatake <karayh@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 4:16 PM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner and the Board of Regents,

I am a UHM grad (2011) who went on to get my PhD in Literature from UC Santa Cruz (2019). I am now back in the islands teaching high school and giving back to my community. I write to you with utmost urgency because as a UH grad, the proposed cuts to academic programs like theatre, ethnic studies, journalism, and social work are danger signs for what constitutes a thriving society in Hawai'i.

I urge you not to defund these programs because the work they do are vital for Hawai'i now and in the future. In a time when racial injustice is on the rise and there are calls for defunding the police, we must have programs like social work and ethnic studies to answer these calls. Moreover, during something like a global pandemic and in an era of "fake news," we must have trained journalists to cover the important stories. Alongside journalism, theatre and other humanities programs must be there to support how we tell our story. If the stories are not there, or not seen, then we really do not have a future.

Please reconsider what is most important, not only from a fiscal standpoint, but for the state of the islands now and in the future.

Mahalo,
Kara Hisatake, PhD



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kahana Ho <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 10:39 PM

Reply-To: kahanakitty@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Kahana Ho
Email	kahanakitty@gmail.com
Date	09-13-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	Please do not cut the performing arts programs. These are the ONLY opportunities for local artists to obtain training that prepares us for professional careers - competition and costs are prohibitive for most of us. The costs are not only financial. For many of us, there is a unique sense of place and identity that gives us life, and being uprooted from here for any reason is devastating.
---------------------	---

As an artist who went through K-12 in Honolulu, and then

obtained a B.A. in music at Mānoa, i can attest to the powerful role the University music program had in shaping the quality and quantity of music students, myself included, who saw the UHM music program as a mecca, where we would later emerge as performers, teachers, and above all, better people. Many fine musicians, professional and otherwise, rose through the intermediate and high schools guided by the inspiration of those who went on to UHM's Music program, who themselves went on to inspire future artists in our community.

Many years later, as an aspiring actress, i still see the same process happening in Theatre and Dance. The young actors, designers, technical theatre artists, budding directors and choreographers of Hawai'i are nurtured by the inspiration of the art and artists emerging from UHM Theatre and Dance program.

With the UHM's performing arts programs creating the vision of what can be, our local youth have the inspiration to challenge and sustain themselves through the long and often discouraging process of becoming better artists and people.

If these programs are terminated, the quality of the performing arts, professionally, and for students from the Doctoral level through elementary school, will be profoundly disrupted.

For myself, i now fall in the "non traditional student" category, but hope to be able to marshal the funds to get into the Theatre and Dance program, so that i can learn, practice, hone my craft, and contribute to the community as a theatre artist. I can only do this, financially, and personally, if there is a Theatre and Dance program here.

Absent the program, I am afraid I have no place in this community, or any other.

Your decision will profoundly affect my life.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct

labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Name: Kahana Ho
I am a UH Manoa: Alumni
Address: City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In support of retaining UH Dance Degree Program

Bonnie Homsey <bonnie.homsey@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 10:37 AM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner,

The UH Manoa fiscal repositioning has come to my attention, including the proposal to eliminate the Dance Degree program. I am third-generation from Hawaii and my association with UH Dance Program began in 1968 as a high school student performing with UH Dance Theater. Later after Juilliard, I enrolled from 1972-73 to obtain my Bachelor of Arts. Reiko T. Oda, my mother, taught in UH Continuing Education for decades, with students including the UH football team. The UH Dance Program supported my fledgling ambitions which matured into subsequent national contributions to the field.

UH Dance Program trained and positioned capacity building so that I could accomplish career ambitions and contribute to the artform in extended ways.

- - Principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company (1973-80)
- - Founding director of Los Angeles Dance Foundation and its renowned touring entity, American Repertory Dance Company.
- - Chair of Dance for The Princess Grace Foundation USA (2000 – present) funding emerging artists in Dance, Film, Theater on a national scale.
- - 35-year service as panelist for organizations including National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, United States Artist, state and municipal agencies.
- - 25-year career as an educator, currently Adjunct Assistant Professor at USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance and California Institute for the Arts.
- - Author with published articles in journals and books.
- - Curator for extended dance exhibitions at Washington University and UC Irvine's Langson Library which drew the largest attendance during its six-month run.
- - Past and current service: The Actors Fund Western Council, Advisory for All Arts (TV platform created by WNET), National Dance Education Association, Dance USA, Board of Overseers for Barnsdall Park, founding Board of The Fountain Theater.

I hope there can be reconsideration of the magnitude of eliminating the Dance Program that brought international recognition to Hawaii under Carl Wolz in the mid 1960s. Over the decades, I can state that re-instating takes more financial resources, energy and time...if it can even be done. My husband and I launched the first dance scholarship in my mother's name at Mid-Pacific Institute. Local talent abounds in addition to those from outside the state/country. Eliminating the Dance Program stands in direct opposition to Hawaii's intrinsic values of culture and humanity; what makes UH unique.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Oda Homsey
 Director, Los Angeles Dance Foundation
 Email: bonnie.homsey@gmail.com

9/14/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - In support of retaining UH Dance Degree Program

Website: www.LADanceFoundation.org

Mobile: (323) 972-2100

Chair of Dance

Princess Grace Foundation USA

Website: www.pgfusa.org

Office: (212) 317-1470



UH Ltr re Dance.docx

26K

Bonnie Oda Homsey

4848 Bonvue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Tel (323) 972-2100
Email bonnie.homsey@gmail.com
Website www.LADanceFoundation.org

September 14, 2020

Via Email

To: david@hawaii.edu; david.lassner@hawaii.edu
cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu; COVID19@hawaii.edu; bor.testimony@hawaii.edu;
parnade@hawaii.edu; tbrisliln@hawaii.edu; kondo@hawaii.edu; wessendo@hawaii.edu;
iezzi@hawaii.edu; efisher@hawaii.edu

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The UH Dance Program trained and positioned capacity building so that I could accomplish career ambitions and contribute to the artform in many ways.

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Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Oda Homsey



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Maria Teresa Houar <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 7:52 PM

Reply-To: mhou@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Maria Teresa Houar

Email mhou@hawaii.edu

Date 09-13-2020

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Signature 

Name: Maria Teresa Houar

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: Honolulu
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Maria Teresa Houar <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 8:09 PM

Reply-To: Mhou@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzis@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Maria Teresa Houar
 Email Mhou@hawaii.edu
 Date 09-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Maria Teresa Houar

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

News of cuts to UHM Theatre and Dance programs

Colleen Lanki <colleen@tomoearts.org>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 2:24 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Betsy Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, COVID19@hawaii.edu

Dear Dr. Lassner,

It was with shock and dismay that I read about possible cuts to programs in the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance.

I graduated from the MFA Directing program in 2004. I returned to UHM as a guest artist to instruct and direct a MainStage production in 2013. My training at UH was remarkable and life-changing. There is nowhere else in the world I could have received training and performance experiences in such an array of world theatre forms. I met master artists from around the world, learned about music and dance forms I had never encountered, and was given opportunities to engage with these new techniques and aesthetics in my own creative practice. My studies in the UH Department of Theatre and Dance had a profound effect on my work as both an artist and educator.

The MFA and PhD programs in the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance are unique in the world. They offer students of all nationalities practical experience in a variety of world performance forms alongside the study of an array of theories, literatures and histories. This international focus and radical openness to cross the boundaries of theory and practice creates artists and thinkers who evolve into cultural bridges wherever they live. In my own cohort, graduates of the MFA and PhD programs are working in Japan, China, Canada, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, England, Switzerland and throughout the United States. We are teaching in colleges or universities, running theatre or dance programs, and founding arts organizations.

The practice and study of theatre and dance is ultimately the practice and study of human communication. Theatre and dance are the embodiment of human culture, and in this world where we are now forced to be so physically distanced and socially polarized, we need theatre and dance more than ever.

Please re-consider any cuts to these programs.

yours,

Colleen Lanki

Colleen Lanki (she/her/hers)

Artistic Director, **TomoeArts**

604.607.5978

[tradition+innovation / dance+theatre](#)

www.tomoearts.org

cc:

- UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
- the Board of Regents
- the Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
- Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
- Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
- Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
- Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
- Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Alissa Lee <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 9:38 PM

Reply-To: starjoy63@msn.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Alissa Lee
 Email starjoy63@msn.com
 Date 09-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre. That program has greatly impacted my life for the better.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of

these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Alissa Lee

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Mililani

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

The UHM Dance Program

Gregg Lizenbery <lgreg@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 1:16 PM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, efisher@hawaii.edu

Concerning the UHM Dance Program

Gregg Lizenbery
UHM Professor Emeritus



UHM Dance Program.docx

14K

Contrary to many opinions that the arts are frivolous, several longitudinal studies prove that students who have arts-rich experiences do better academically and they also become more active and engaged citizens, voting, volunteering, and generally participate at higher rates than their peers.

I am a passionate supporter of the value of Arts in society, especially in Hawaii. The arts develop students' talents and potentials to service the community here, on the mainland, and internationally. Unfortunately, the institutional support has diminished markedly in the past 30 years at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and there are serious proposals to abolish the Dance program. This is alarming!!!

We continue to be proud of our ability to maintain national educational standards and to offer courses in Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, and Philippine Dance forms that no other American dance university programs can provide alongside of excellent training in Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Hip Hop and other western cultural forms.

We are unique and have capitalized on our central Pacific position by instituting the Asia Pacific Dance Festival during the summer that attracts national and international artists, students, donors. Last summer performances were sold out including local and international companies. The audiences were primarily composed of local community people excited by the prospect of seeing something related to their particular ethnic background. This tremendous success is an important component of our ongoing outreach efforts.

UH Manoa boasts the nation's singular Department of Theatre and Dance with its unmatched array of multifaceted programs that embrace Western and Asian-based performing arts disciplines. Faculty and graduates are recognized for artistic and scholarly achievements nationally and internationally. UHM Dance has contributed to definitive publications on both Eastern dance forms, historical Western dance innovators, and is developing new approaches to dance education. The UHM Dance program believes like Daniel H. Pink asserts in his book, "A Whole New Mind," that "the MFA is the new MBA...we should no longer be teaching students for the jobs that *used* to exist, but be preparing them for jobs that *will* exist, and fostering creative and engaged individuals for a world that *should* exist." The UHM Dance Program is developing 21st century innovations that reach across cultures and needs support instead of threats.

It is outrageous to think of eliminating such an innovative Dance program that reaches so pertinently to the local community but also to the mainland and the world!

Sincerely,
Gregg Lizenbery

UHM Professor Emeritus



UHM Dance Program

Gregg Lizenbery <lgreg@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 1:22 PM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Betsy Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>

A statement concerning the UHM Dance Program

Gregg Lizenbery
UHM Professor Emeritus



UHM Dance Program.docx

14K

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Sincerely,
Gregg Lizenbery

UHM Professor Emeritus



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Emmalia Majewski <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:21 PM

Reply-To: emmajestic96@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Emmalia Majewski
 Email emmajestic96@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 2124567
 Date 09-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I am a recent Dance BFA graduate, and while the degree was not perfect, it can be improved and made better and stronger. The best solution for that would be to invest and keep funding the theatre and dance programmes at UH Manoa. We need to invest in the arts, not cut them at the first sign of financial stress.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Emmalia Majewski

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Stand Up for Dance at University of Hawai'i

Monica Mariiko <hkdancecenter@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 4:53 AM

To: david.lassner@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezz@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Dear David,

It has come to my attention that the dance program at University of Hawai'i could be cut.

This is a program that is needed at the university for many years and should be kept alive! Most of my life I have trained to be a dancer and went to UH Manoa to learn more about how to make dance my career. Even though it is not always a profession that can make a lot of money, I still decided to follow my heart and pursue it in Hawai'i. I even think that if someday I may have an opportunity, I would study further in the dance field and increase my teaching experience.

I attended UH Manoa from 2012-2016, and it breaks my heart to see that after so much change has happened due to the coronavirus pandemic, programs such as dance may not have the chance of surviving. This has to be fought for, and people's life work, mental, physical and emotional health depend on it. Even through all of this, I believe that dancers can come together to bring about good change, compassion and love for one another. Hawai'i thrives on a community of Aloha and appreciation for arts and dance. Hawaiian culture evolved from dance and stories, history of relationships between native Hawaiian islanders and settlers. I grew up here on Oahu since I was five years old and now I see that the Hawai'i I knew will not be the same, but without dance, it seems that all hope would be lost. We need this program and we need people to support it even if it's on a small scale.

When I first started studying at UH Manoa, the dance building was just beginning to be built. It was such a privilege to have a beautiful spacious studio to dance in, and it would be so sad to see that no one can dance there. Earlier this past year, I went to the dance building because I was longing for a place to dance, but it had already been closed. I ran into a professor and expressed myself saying that I wished to see someone dancing there and at least I could peek through the window. But there was no one and classes were finished for spring break 2020.

I used to teach and now I cannot due to the pandemic, but not only that, my after school dance business Hawaii Kai Dance Center has suffered and I no longer offer any classes because public schools have been closed since March. It has been very depressing to not have that outlet to dance, and though I keep reminding myself that there is so much more interesting beauty in life and wonderful things to explore, my mind and soul know that that's what I always loved, dancing and feeling free.

I was even hospitalized this past June and when I was at the hospital, all I could do were a few plies, tendues and then I found myself doing Okinawan dance across the hall, when some other patients at the hospital decided to join in for recreational exercise, or I found myself singing loudly in my room and dancing just to shake off the tension of where I was. Through the anxiety and depression I have experienced that dance has a healing property for so many individuals. For students who have wanted the opportunity to dance, it wouldn't be fair not to offer a few small classes here and there at University of Hawai'i and I mean in person classes some time along the way. People need each other's support and encouragement and youth have to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Some of us can see it through dance and hopefully the new generation will survive this pandemic because they will fight for it through tears and blood.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

--

Monica Mariiko
Hawaii Kai Dance Director
hkdancecenter@gmail.com
808-457-5478



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UHM Theatre & Dance Degree Programs

Mason_David <MasonD@rhodes.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 5:40 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>, "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Kirstin Pauka <pauka@hawaii.edu>

Dear David Lassner, Michael Bruno, UH Board of Regents, Peter Arnade, Tom Brislin, and Kimi Kondo-Brown,

Please accept and consider this brief note on the matter of proposed retrenchment at the University of Hawaii, particularly the proposed end of UHM's Ph.D. program in Asian Theatre.

I expect there's no need for me to attest to the unique value of programs at UHM that are committed to studying forms of theatre and performance in Asia.

I only urge you to be guided by the faculty who have charge over these programs. As much as anyone, UHM's faculty in Theatre and Dance surely want the university and the state's economy to thrive.

And UHM's Theatre and Dance faculty have genuine expertise, developed over decades, that could serve the goal of sustaining the university's viability and also of sustaining its well-earned place as a model for theatre and performance studies, globally.

Regards,

Dave Mason

David Mason
Rhodes College
Editor, *Ecumenica: Theatre and Religion*
editor@ecumenicajournal.org

"Bad people do bad things, obviously.
Good people do worse." —Suni Prithvala



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Preserve Theatre and Dance Departments

Claudia Orenstein <corenste@hunter.cuny.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 2:01 PM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisl@hawaii.edu" <tbrisl@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Julie lezzi <lezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

I am writing to voice my deep concern (not to mention shock) at the news that you are considering cutting the University of Hawaii, Manoa's programs in Theatre and Dance. These programs are among the most well-respected in the country. They not only provide students in Hawaii with a world-class education in performing arts, they are unique in the US, and the envy of many other institutions, because of their outstanding strengths in Asian Theatre and Theatre for Youth.

The University of Hawaii's offerings in Asian performance are a vital resource for the entire field of theatre studies. Where else in the country do students have the opportunity to take classes with masters of Japanese, Chinese, Indian, and Indonesian arts, learning to perform traditional forms from them, while engaging in important discussions related to cross-cultural exchange? The PhD program in Asian Theatre has produced outstanding scholars, who have been at the center of the field for decades. The program's location in Hawaii, its connections with the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii Press have made it a Mecca for Asian performing arts, welcoming artists and scholars from across the globe. I have had the good fortune to visit on several occasions through programs organized through the National Endowment for the Humanities and built around the strengths of these departments. I have also sent some of my most promising students to these programs to pursue their theatre studies.

I can't impress on you enough what an enormous loss it would be to the population of Hawaii and the field of theatre at large to lose these important departments, their faculties, degrees, and the students and activities they support. You must reconsider this decision and recognize the treasures housed on your campus, which will not return easily once disbanded. While I certainly understand the financial pressures of these times, we must also remember our roles in preserving the important resources under our care, so they are available for the future.

Sincerely,

Claudia Orenstein
Professor
Theatre Department
Hunter College, CUNY
corenste@hunter.cuny.edu
WEBSITE: <https://claudiaorenstein.wordpress.com>



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Letter of Protest In Regard to the "Stop-Out" of Degree Programs in Theatre and Dance

Noelle <noelle.poole@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 5:28 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

Mr. Lassner,

Your proposed "stop-out" of degrees in the Theatre and Dance Programs have been brought to my attention all the way in Redondo Beach, CA. Have you ever been to the theater? Have you ever felt connected to your fellow man by the collective energy that was shared in that particular space at that particular time? Theater is not just acting, it encompasses LIFE.

I graduated with my BFA in Theatre in 2000 and obtained my MFA in Theater in 2005. The skills I have gained in the Theatre Program at the University of Hawaii have enabled me to live a life of service to my community, not only in Hawaii, but here in California. In Hawaii, I worked for Ohia Productions for 15 years. We brought environmental educational shows to hundreds of thousands of elementary school children. When I moved to California, I worked for and later ran an advertising agency which produced national commercials. My responsibilities included managing budgets, collaborating with talent and crew and producing all post production services. Currently, my role is an early childhood educator and I have consulted numerous schools and directors on integrating the arts into their curriculum.

In every single one of my professional roles, I've utilized the skills from the theatre to succeed and excel; listening, articulating ideas, communication, mindfulness, discipline, organizing, problem solving, creativity, connection, collaboration, educating, advocating, and more.

My theatre skills came into play full force when school was shut down due to Covid back in March. My preschool was one of the leading schools in the area to begin online learning. During Covid, my quick thinking, creative problem solving skills lead my staff in creating meaningful online learning and content. We received positive feedback from the parents of our school, praising us for remaining connected to our students and keeping them engaged.

My plea to you Mr. Lassner, is that you rethink your decision to cut degree programs in Theatre and Dance. Truly, I would not be where I am today without the skills instilled in my heart and soul through my studies in the Theatre Department. I believe taking these degrees away would rob others like myself of a successful career path. One does not have to remain on the theatrical path even though they hold that degree. A Theatre degree encompasses so much more and can empower the holder to be successful with any career path they choose. The Arts and Humanities are the bloodline of our society and reducing any of these programs would also reduce the quality of life. We are living through extraordinary times and I've seen first hand how theatre communities all over the country continue to inspire others through their art. They are creatively addressing issues such as mental illness and racial injustice. The path of theatre education is a path of making a difference in communities and the world.

With hope,
Noelle Poole-Isenberg



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Proposed cuts ; Dept. Theater and Dance

Ernest Provencher <erniepro@hotmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:04 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to raise objection to proposed cuts, specifically to Theater and Dance.

The courses and productions from the department contribute significantly to the culture, edification, development of knowledge, and entertainment --- artistically and intellectually --- in and for our people, here and internationally.

In my experience as a lecturer in the department (Music Theory for Dancers DNCE151), I have seen close-up the excitement and commitment of the students, and how that manifests in their creative work and understanding of music/dance connections.

Please consider the importance of this work and creativity in Hawaii and beyond.

Ernie Provencher



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ruth Quirk <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 9:41 PM

Reply-To: rmq@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Ruth Quirk
 Email rmq@hawaii.edu
 Date 09-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments Even though my field of study and work at the University was technology and education and information studies. Theater and dance We are critical for me in being able to think in new ways that would allow innovation to happen... Plus the field of education dance in particular really helps heal the damage done by many of the other activities...

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the

helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Ruth Quirk

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hi
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

David Reinke <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 9:51 PM

Reply-To: dreinke0624@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name David Reinke
 Email dreinke0624@gmail.com
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments In 1978 the University of Hawai'i embarked upon a year long program of intensive study and training that would culminate in the staging of the Kabuki classic Kanadehon Chushingura – The 47 Ronin. The program was organized and lead by Dr. James R Brandon, who found the means to bring Nakamura Matagoro II (Chief Instructor at the National Theatre & National Living Treasure) and a cadre of Kabuki actors, musicians, and technicians, to spend a year at the UH teaching Kabuki.

Many of us had come from great distances to be a part of this program. Indeed, my theatre professor at the Claremont Graduate School, Dr. Leonard Pronko, told the students in his Japanese Theatre seminar that if any of us were serious about learning this art form then we should head to Hawai'i for we would never have the opportunity, even in Japan, of working as closely with the Kabuki talent being assembled for this production. I got on the airplane to Hawai'i and never looked back.

Our mornings were devoted to dance and acting classes and our afternoons were spent in academic classes on Kabuki history, costuming and music. In the evenings many of us took additional dance and music lessons and, once the play was cast, we spent every evening, from 3:00pm until 9 or 10 pm in rehearsals. By the time we opened our Honolulu run in May, we had learned the entire play in Japanese and then re-memorized it in English. We ate, slept and breathed Kabuki.

It was, for me at least, the best year of my theatrical life.

Yes, other universities do have Asian Theatre programs, and many of them are quite good, however...

No one has ever offered a program that approaches the scope, the depth, and the unique opportunities found at the UH in years past and, we will hope, in the years yet to come.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

David Reinke

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Burbank

State / Province: California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Support of UHM Dept of Theatre & Dance

Frederick Rogals <fr886@hunter.cuny.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 10:22 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
 Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner-

Greetings. My name is Alex Rogals and I am writing to express my support for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance MA, MFA and PhD programs and my concern for the proposal to phase out these degree programs. I am a PhD student currently in the process of finishing my dissertation, which is an ethnographic study on Sagi school kyōgen, but I am also teaching Japanese Arts & Culture at Hunter College in New York City.

In short, I believe the loss of these programs would not only be a loss for the academic communities who focus on Asian Performing Arts, they would also be a loss for those who could benefit from a truly one-of-a-kind MA, MFA and PhD program.

To elaborate, I am sure that you will hear from a number of my friends, mentors and colleagues about the irreparable damage the loss of these programs will have on so many of us, as well as our fear that such measures will erase enduring and impactful opportunities for future students, their artistic endeavors and academic achievements. In solidarity, I would like to take a moment to express exactly what the UHM Theatre PhD program, as well as its MA and MFA programs, have meant to me and why I believe their cessation is not in the best interest of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

First and foremost, I want to make it clear that **when I applied for a PhD program, I did not apply anywhere else. I did not want to nor did I see the need to.** I wanted to focus the Japanese traditional performing art, kyōgen, and I knew that **anyone who wants to study Asian theatre goes to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**- everyone knows this. I was also certain I wanted my experience to be guided by **Julie Iezzi**. I was taken by her academic work with kyōgen, her connections to kyōgen families in Japan, and her work staging Japanese performances at UHM. In Professor Iezzi I saw a combination of academic and practical knowledge that I knew I would not get anywhere else. I knew all of this before I even set foot in Kennedy Theatre.

Over the next few years Professor Iezzi, along with Professors **Wessendorf, O'Malley, Pauka** and **Wichmann-Walczak** helped shape my learning experience, guided my first published article, and connected me to essential persons in Japan. They also introduced me to a web of scholars and practitioners that enriched my understanding not only of Japanese theatre, but to all kinds of theatre. Thanks to Professor O'Malley, I was able to improve my theoretical writing. Thanks to Professor Pauka, I was able to perform in an Indonesian Randai (dance play). Thanks to Professor Wessendorf, I was given the opportunity to teach Introduction to World Theatre for 5 semesters at UHM (which absolutely opened the door for my current teaching job at Hunter College), I was challenged with theatre theory that continues to inform my writing, and I was able to act in an original production called *Uncle Vanya and Zombies* that wound up being written about in the book *How Zombies Conquered Popular Culture* (Bishop, 2015). Thanks to Professor Wichmann-Walczak, I spent a semester learning how to sing and perform Chinese Jingju (Beijing Opera). I mention all of these things (and they are only a fraction of the opportunities I benefitted from) because they represent the completely unique experience that only UHM's department of Theatre and Dance can provide. **No where else could I, as a PhD student, have done all of these things.**

Related to this extraordinary experience, it is also important to note that along with my Professors, my relationship with other PhD students and MA and MFA students speaks to the extraordinary experience UHM Theatre provides. During my time at UHM, I acted in plays and took classes with MFA students and MA students. I was connected not only to an academic culture, but to an artistic one. It is my opinion that the bane of theatre scholarship training is the unfortunate disconnect between scholar and practitioner that so many other PhD programs feel is necessary. But how can one write legitimate and critical discourse about something one has never experienced? It is akin to flying an airplane alone after only reading the manual. This **collaboration between artist and academic, between PhD and MFA and MA is something truly unique to the UHM Theatre and Dance Department** and to lose this would be a detriment not only to the University of Hawai'i, but to academic progress.

Furthermore, being a part of the UHM Theatre and Dance Program meant **I was interacting with Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture in a very intimate way**. While it is likely any UHM student can say they learned about life in Hawai'i while attending UHM, because I was in the theatre and dance department, I was connected with the deepest thoughts and feelings of Hawai'i culture on a daily basis- this is something I don't believe a biology or chemistry major can say. UHM introduced me to Kuma Kahua Theatre, where local playwrights told stories that were about Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture, as well as to the work at Diamond Head Theatre, Mānoa Valley Theatre, and Honolulu Theatre for Youth (which in my experience is hands down the best family theatre company in the entire United States). Though I did not get a chance to learn from Professor **Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker**, I can say with certainty that **there is a critical need for more scholarship on native Hawaiian performing arts and the theatre of Hawai'i**. Taking away the MA and PhD programs would only be taking from Hawai'i.

My point is that the UHM Theatre PhD program did not only prepare me intellectually for my field work and dissertation writing, it also prepared me to connect on an emotional and physical level with the performances and performers I have encountered. The UHM Theatre PhD program connected me to the scholars I wanted to know and opened more doors than I can count.

I understand and respect the unfortunate situation that the coronavirus has put UHM in and the subsequent belt-tightening that must inevitably occur. But to decimate **the only program in the United States** that gives a PhD and MA student the opportunity to **combine practice with scholarship**, that **trains MFA actors in Asian theatre techniques** (which I can assure you is done nowhere else), and that infuses within these experiences a **deep respect and admiration for the unique culture that exists in Hawai'i**, would be, quite plainly, a terrible mistake.

I am a better scholar, a better teacher and a better person thanks to the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance PhD Program. Please don't take this opportunity away from future UHM Theatre and Dance students.

Sincerely,
Alex Rogals

PhD Candidate
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Department of Theatre and Dance
rogals@hawaii.edu
Follow my kyōgen research [here](#).

Hunter College
Japanese Program
Hunter West 1321
[695 Park Ave](#)
[New York, NY 10065](#)



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Toby Smith <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 8:39 PM

Reply-To: tsmith@ucdavis.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Toby Smith
 Email tsmith@ucdavis.edu
 Phone Number (845) 942716
 Date 12-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments This is just absolutely appalling, and part of the systematic hollowing of the Arts & Humanities in order to maintain profit structures and the pay grades of a selected class. You should be sincerely ashamed of yourselves if you let this happen.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Toby Smith

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Davis

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UHM as the new Face of the Arts

Robert Torigoe <rtorigoe@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:15 PM

To: David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

It is with a heavy heart that I reach out to you. As a recent Theater MFA candidate and passionate theater artist who is excited about all of the amazing possibilities here at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I implore you to rethink some of the budgeting and restructuring strategies that you have proposed for the university.

Understandably, with a large amount of funding lost to the impact of Covid-19 and any other underlying factors, hard decisions need to be made. Budget cuts are inevitable. But, I see that your plan includes building certain programs while ending others which largely include the arts.

While STEM has picked up great momentum in the last decade, it is STEAM that has emerged as the more dynamic model. When we speak about our duty to the people of this state, it is wrong *not* to include the arts as a necessity for our communities. The richness of culture and identity on our islands is unique and requires a broader vision than the average university.

In this time of great change, we are seeing an upheaval of arts industries that challenge existing models and demand new, diverse voices to take the lead in this transformation. With our unique perspective and diverse student body, the time is ripe for the University of Hawaii to become a leader in the arts. Nationally and globally, organizations will be looking for new kinds of leadership. We are well-positioned for preparing and providing for this future vision.

Consider new proposals for degrees that will encourage our Dance department to thrive and create more opportunities for our Theater department to be recognized worldwide. Foster more avenues for cross-departmental collaborations such as HealthCast that break down departmental silos. These will create strong contributions and innovations to the world, credited to UHM.

I stand beside my theater and dance colleagues at this defining moment as we are called forth to rebuild a resilient and responsive community.

Sincerely,
Robert Torigoe

--

Robert Torigoe

he/him/his

rtorigoe@hawaii.edu

Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Theater & Dance

[University of Hawaii at Manoa, Theater and Dance](#)



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In support of the current Theatre and Dance degrees at UHM

Andy Utech <dshogo@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 3:29 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, efisher@hawaii.edu

President Lassner,

It was with astonishment that I read of plans to eliminate some of the current Theatre and Dance degrees at UHM. Going forward with such plans would further damage the institution during a crisis.

It is a simple matter to cut. To cut payroll, especially. In one "bold" stroke an institution's budget appears healthier. But that is short sighted. That is succeeding at your diet by having your legs amputated. Sure, you've dropped some weight, but at what sacrifice?

The proposed cuts will cause immediate harm to educators who have dedicated their lives to achieving excellence for students, UHM programs, and UHM itself. It will throw into chaos the plans of prospective students currently riding out COVID-19 and its associated disarray and terror. Students who have their hopes and dreams pinned on the remarkable education these programs provide. And, of course, it strikes a powerful blow to the support staff, maintenance workers, and the myriad associated personnel and businesses. Folks who can ill afford such a blow.

Moreover, the proposed cuts will cause long-lasting and terribly deep wounds to the institution itself. Calling its prestige and resolve into question. Dimming its light. Cheapening everything about the place. Ties with the community will fray at best. Ties with similar programs around the world - ties built over decades of sweat and joy and true collaboration - will be severed.

In the years since my time at UHM I have worked on international touring productions in two languages. I have worked on Hollywood films and European films and Japanese films - with some of the most prestigious actors and directors working today. There is no doubt in my mind that the opportunities, experiences, facilities, and *people* I had the honor of working with at UHM set me up for success.

Do not take this away from students to come.

Do not be fooled by what looks like a quick and easy win. Look harder. Look to the future. See where those steps will take you. And turn back before it is too late.

I wish you and everyone at UHM all the best in these confusing and frightening times. I wish you health. I wish you peace. I wish you the strength to make the difficult, wise choices that will see you through.

Best,
Andy Utech
MFA 2000



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Valley Varma <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:32 PM

Reply-To: valleyb@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Valley Varma
Email	valleyb@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3845017
Date	09-13-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Additional Comments Cutting the Arts is a huge mistake!

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Valley Varma

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

Address

City: 47-724 HuiKelu St #5 Kaneohe

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Support for UH Theatre and Dance

boxoffice@oldgemtheater.com <boxoffice@oldgemtheater.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 3:32 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>

Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

David Lassner,

I was shocked to learn this week that the University is planning to cut Theatre and Dance programs, including the doctoral program in Asian Theatre. What a monumental waste that would be! UH's Theater and Dance program is vital to the cultural thread of, not only the University, but the entire community in Hawai'i. One only needs to do a quick Google search to understand what an asset the department is, bringing accolades to the University for its artistically accomplished and diverse presentations.

During my time as a doctoral student at UHM, I co-edited "101 Years of Kabuki in Hawai'i." The research we conducted made it clear that the program has been a mainstay in Honolulu in one form or another for well over a century. The doctoral program in Asian Theatre is unique in the world boasting, over the years, internationally renowned scholars such as Earle Ernst, James R. Brandon and Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

I'd urge the administration to reconsider this plan to hobble programs that bring honor to the institution.

Sincerely,
Kathy Welch PhD (UHM 2000)

Artistic Director
Old Gem Theater
116 S Knowles Avenue
New Richmond WI 54017

boxoffice@oldgemtheater.com
www.oldgemtheater.com



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Clara Whippy <noreply@jotform.com>

Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 11:13 PM

Reply-To: clara.felice@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Clara Whippy
Email	clara.felice@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 6391735
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	I recived both my BA in Theatre with a minor in Dance and my MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences at UH Manoa. I now work full time as a teaching artist right here on Oahu, supporting our local DOE teachers in bringing creativity and joy into thier classroom with arts residencies that integrate creative drama to reinforce classroom content standards. The arts address the Social
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and Emotional needs of our children, youth, and adults. It is now during these trying times that they are needed even more urgently. Even during distance learning I am right there in virtual classrooms, where even in such a challenging environment the arts still give students something meaningful to look forward to in their day. I would not be able to do what I do if it was not the Department of Theatre and Dance at UH Manoa and their amazing programs.

Not only was it so instrumental in my personal career path, but the UHM Theatre Department has some of the top Programs nationally. When I was researching universities to attend, it became clear that the Theatre for Young Audiences track is one of the top programs in nation, as is the Asian Theatre program, and the Hawaiian Theatre program is the only of its kind in the world. To be able to attend one of the best Theatre for Young Audience programs in the nation and still get to stay here in my own back yard is such an incredible thing.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that

could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Clara Whippy

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1545 Linapuni St, Apt B1719](#)

State / Province: [HI](#)

Country: [United States](#)

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jarica Mae Abella <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:14 PM

Reply-To: jmva@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Jarica Mae Abella
Email	jmva@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 2123954
Date	04-15-1999
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I just started at Manoa this fall, eager to begin my program in theatre. To know that there is consideration to cut the theatre and dance programs absolutely shatters me because I won't be able to learn and grow in the craft as much as I am supposed to for a degree.

Everything that has to do with the arts is as important as

any other degree that a “real job” requires. What have we all been doing during this quarantine? Taking in all of the art (movies, television, plays, musicals, music, etc.) and creating art (virtual live plays, recording dance choreography, short films, etc.). It is an understatement to say that the arts kept my family, friends and I sane throughout this pandemic.

Many talented, passionate and hardworking people in the theatre & dance community took the academic route to enhance their craft, therefore allowing them to create art and offer it to the world in which we consume on a daily basis.

Please acknowledge how much the arts has allowed many to create and perform with their highest potential to tell stories and share perspectives that move us. Every division in the arts teaches us what it means to be human, the complexity of the human mind and body, and what we can offer with the mind and body.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in

conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Jarica Mae Abella

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [91-1364 Keoneula Blvd #1205](#)

State / Province: Ewa Beach

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Sheri Abigania <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:19 PM

Reply-To: sheri.majewski@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Sheri Abigania
Email sherimajewski@yahoo.com
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments: Without the arts, humanity loses one of its most important common languages that bridges human dignity and experiences of all kinds.

When you are the one sitting in the chair of decisions, be generous and gracious to uplift the fine artists seeking degrees in the dance and theater departments who await your favorable ruling on such decisions. Theater and dance provide the opportunities for growth that young

people are desperate for. People of all ages really.... The level of social development should not be underestimated. Please don't underestimate the impact that the arts of dance and theater have on performers and audiences alike. Support the dance department's goals to be the best it can be by putting more support behind their degree programs, not less.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Sheri Abigania

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Kapaa

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rexen Abraham <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:24 PM

Reply-To: rexen@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Rexen Abraham
Email rexen@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 7735033
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments:

I am not a UH Manoa student but I am a student of UH West O'ahu and have many friends that attend this college. I believe that art programs are needed for students that want to pursue those majors and are just as important as any other major at the university.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Rexen Abraham

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [85-153 Ala Akau St. Apt. D](#)

State / Province: Waianae

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Donavan Kamakani Albano <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:09 PM

Reply-To: albanodc@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Donavan Kamakani Albano
Email	albanodc@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 7281451
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

While I understand that students who are currently pursuing the programs will not necessarily be prevented from graduating within these programs, I believe that the genealogies and lineages of these radical, powerful departments are too important and great to potentially cut due to a financial crisis. As a Kanaka Ethnic Studies haumāna, I have been transformed and radicalized by

this education, which has taught me so much of what I was deprived of growing up in Hawai'i. We continue to demand for accountability, transparency, and student governance from the UH administration.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Donavan Kamakani Albano

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Amanda Allen <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:33 PM

Reply-To: aallen22@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Amanda Allen
Email	aallen22@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(803) 528-5592
Date	11-12-1991
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

The Master's Program in Dance is the only graduate program of study on the Island, as well as the entire state of Hawaii. The current proposed cuts would force students pursuing the arts in dance performance or teaching to seek their education on the mainland or internationally. This affects native and non-native Hawaiians the most, forcing them to relocate their lives,

homes, and leave their families behind in pursuit of their passions that serve the greater community and world of arts.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature



Name:

Amanda Allen

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kelsey Amos <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:04 PM

Reply-To: kmt.amos@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Kelsey Amos
Email kmt.amos@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 2225247
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

Don't cut arts and humanities programs at UH please.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Kelsey Amos

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [2460 Waolani Ave Apt D](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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noreply@jotform.com <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:15 PM

Reply-To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzia@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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noreply@jotform.com <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:22 PM

Reply-To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezz@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

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noreply@jotform.com <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:22 PM

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I am a UH Manoa:

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Hannah Archer <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:42 PM

Reply-To: harcher@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Hannah Archer
Email harcher@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (657) 2639579
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

Being a dancer is who I am. Taking dance away for me at the highest academic level is beyond inhumane. Not only are you hindering my education, you are hindering the minds of those who come after me. By removing this program, you are cutting off a generation from a source of life that has brought so much into this world.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Hannah Archer

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ann Elizabeth Armstrong Armstrong <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:56 AM

Reply-To: armstra2@miamioh.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Ann Elizabeth Armstrong Armstrong
 Email armstra2@miamioh.edu
 Phone Number (513) 4619628
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
 Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments As an associate professor of theatre at Miami University (Ohio), I am well aware of the crisis that higher education is facing. However, the arts and the humanities should not be disproportionate in bearing the burden of such cuts. Given the small amounts of funding that will be saved compared to the LARGE value of the arts and culture in the university, local and national communities, such a

proposal is not reasonable. I understand that on paper it may look as if eliminating a graduate degree appears to be streamlining or "efficient." In theatre each of these degrees is uniquely valuable. Indeed theatre is a complex system requiring all areas, and we cannot make it without ALL of its component parts and specializations. To eliminate even one of these degrees would flatten, diminish and jeopardize the work of the UH dept of Theatre and dance. The UH Dept. has maintained an international reputation for its scholarly and artistic work. I have recommended it to my own students, and it serves a unique niche in our landscape of national theatre Research I institutions. The elimination of graduate degrees will impact the undergraduate experience since the graduate students are critical collaborators with them. I sincerely hope you will scrutinize this proposal and consider other options for enhancing and building upon the distinguished tradition in the performing arts at UHM.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of

learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature



Name:

Ann Elizabeth Armstrong

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Oxford

State / Province: OHio

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Support the Continuation of UHM Dance Degrees

Larry Asakawa <larryasakawa@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:14 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

To whom it may concern:

My name is Larry Asakawa. I am writing to raise objections to the proposed cuts to the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance. I am writing to specifically ask that you reconsider the proposal to "stop-out" the Dance degrees (BA/BFA/MA/MFA) and instead allow them to continue. Please support the continuation of *all* the dance degrees and encourage them to flourish.

I have seen firsthand how the dance program's courses and performances have positive impacts on the undergraduate and graduate dance majors' development of professional skills and understanding of their craft. Synergies of art and technology now inspire the workforce in the arts, and the students' future successes will likely depend on the insightful range of courses that UHM Dance offers.

Since 2011, I have been a regular guest presenter in the Visual Media for Dance course. This required course for Dance majors teaches relevant and essential vocational skills. It prepares students with crucial technologic skills to operate dance studio businesses, create projection designs for the stage, document their works for publicity and grants, and invent cutting-edge video choreography with high-level interactive software.

For the Visual Media for Dance Courses, I teach the technical and artistic processes for pre-production planning, production and camera techniques, post-production, digital editing, and some practical possibilities for distributing creatively filmed dances. I have also filmed footage for the Ocean's Motion video projection design in live performance and the MemoryHouse: DREAMS presentation of the dance film "Offerings" in collaboration with UHM Dance faculty and majors. These works were presented as part of the Kennedy Theatre Mainstage in recent years. Through dance for the camera processes, the dancers and choreographers took the opportunity to cultivate necessary dance and technology skills to prepare them for today's performing arts field.

I have collaborated with hundreds of dance companies, choreographers, visual artists, writers, and musicians to tell their stories. After working with the UHM Dance program faculty, I can tell you from personal experience they offer the highest caliber of teaching in the arts. The dance degree program uniquely serves the local community and provides an education that dancers cannot receive anywhere else in the world. Cutting dance degrees will be devastating to Hawaii's cultural arts. For young dancers here, the UHM Dance and Theater training and degrees can be essential for entering the arts workforce and contributing to Hawaii State's cultural treasures.

Please, do not cut the critical BA/BFA and MA/MFA dance degrees at UH Manoa.

Thank you, Larry Asakawa.

and use what they learn to put on what their career is. Cutting the programs cuts more education away from students who want to come back and continue their degree for their career.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Isaiah Avilla

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: 2591 Dole St. Wainani H #352
State / Province: Honolulu HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Do not Stop Out BA in Ethnic Studies

Mary Babcock <mbabcock@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:19 PM

The Ethic Studies BA program at UH Manoa should not be targeted as a "stop-out" program. Suggesting Ethic Studies BA be stopped out ignores and demeans the legacies of Hawai'i's multi-ethnic peoples, and this richness this program provides to new generations of students. Targeting Ethnic Studies under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism.

--

Sincerely,
Mary Babcock, Professor
Sculpture and Expanded Practices
Department of Art and Art History / University of Hawaii at Manoa,
2535 McCarthy Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822
www.marybabcock.com



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kaila Baker <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:18 AM

Reply-To: Kailabak@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Kaila Baker
 Email Kailabak@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 2923952
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments As a student in the social work program, it is heartbreaking to hear about the plans and objectives of the University. Social work is a necessity to Hawai'i's wellbeing. Social workers help relieve people's suffering and serve those who are vulnerable. Hawai'i has such a large homeless community, elderly population, and many that seek aid from public service. It is imperative that

Hawai'i and the institution continue to support those who have a heart to serve the community. Our state's culture revolves around community, it is rooted in taking care of one another. From a young age, Hawai'i's youth are taught to give back what the community and the island has given to them. By taking the opportunity to pursue social work, you are ignoring two important facts: that there is a need for social workers in our state and the culture of our home.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Kaila Baker

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Amber Baker <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:40 AM

Reply-To: amberlehuabaker@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Amber Baker
 Email amberlehuabaker@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 3412617
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Additional Comments As someone who holds a B.A. in Theatre from UH I can tell you it is one of the most important things I have ever done. And a huge part of that was the community I was a part of. Learning from graduate students in costuming, lights, and scenic design were fundamental to my education not just in theatre but also in life. Designing and organizing the costumes for dance shows taught me

communication and leadership skills that are invaluable, that I have used in every job since then.

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Signature



Name:

Amber Baker

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Mililani

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rhonda Bell <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:16 PM

Reply-To: rmbell935@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Rhonda Bell
Email	rmbell935@gmail.com
Phone Number	(615) 9380878
Date	02-08-1991
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

As an alum of UHM who received my Masters in Theatre, I am genuinely appalled that the need to cut budgets once again, especially in this country, puts the arts on the chopping block. There is too much scientific proof that the arts are beneficial not only to student learning but the function and wellbeing of society as a whole. I don't see how a culture as rich as Hawaii's could possibly benefit

from cutting programs that are essential to supporting and maintaining the islands' history and integrity.

Your obligation as an institution of higher learning is to provide a means for your students to learn, grow, and pursue the careers of their choice. There are lots of ways to cut funds and balance budgets, but cutting whole programs is not the way to do that. How about reallocating funds from various non-essential, non-academic areas and putting them into your academic programs?

You are putting students at risk of transfer and professors and staff at risk of losing their jobs, and for what? A sullied name because of making poor choices like cutting whole programs from a school simply because your leadership doesn't know how to spend its funds properly in support of students and their learning?

I encourage you to rethink these proposed cuts and the damage it will do to your institution's integrity, your relationship with your staff and students, and the overall arts industry. Theatre is essential. Dance is essential. Journalism is essential. These programs are worthy of investment and support. I wouldn't be where I am in my own career if not for my education from UH. Please don't deprive other students of that opportunity.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Rhonda Bell

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Nashville
State / Province: TN
Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Evelyn Belman <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:27 PM

Reply-To: ebelman@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Evelyn Belman
Email ebelman@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (951) 5314907
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I propose you take a huge budget cut to allow the departments to stay in place as is or grow and improve. Your role is "small" and does not need to be paid in the salary you currently receive.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

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Signature



Name:

Evelyn Belman

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [2919 Kaamalii Dr.](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



Ethnic Studies

Ned Bertz <bertz@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:59 PM

Dear BOR,

It is unconscionable that UHM would consider stopping the Ethnic Studies BA degree. Not only is this institutional racism, but it also deprives our students of a critical lens on which they need to understand and navigate in the world. Please oppose this recommendation and urge the University to withdraw it.

Sincerely yours,

--

Ned Bertz
Associate Professor
Department of History
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Mohammad Betamour <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Reply-To: mibetamour@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Mohammad Betamour
 Email mibetamour@yahoo.com
 Date 12-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner
 CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Suggested Letter body which you may edit: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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9/15/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

in an ongoing conversation with the community you have
been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Mohammad Betamour

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Sukai Crutchfield Billinge <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:09 PM

Reply-To: sukai@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Sukai Crutchfield Billinge
Email sukai@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (510) 7255595
Date 08-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

Please don't discard programs with little to no reason. I don't see how the school could be in a budget shortfall when the students are still paying full tuition. This has already been such a hard year. By doing this you are telling all the theater, dance, women's studies and ethnic studies students and faculty that you do not care about

them. That says a lot about this school. I truly hope you will reconsider.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Sukai Crutchfield Billinge

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jonah Bobilin <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:22 AM

Reply-To: jbobilin@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Jonah Bobilin
 Email jbobilin@hawaii.edu
 Date 09-13-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments This movement to eliminate arts and entertainment related degrees comes at a time when theatre and entertainment professionals around the world are unemployed. By considering this programs expendable you add insult to economic injury. You are eliminating the ability for undergraduates to continue their education and enter the field as informed and knowledgeable practitioners. People who might be considering going back to school due to the current job instability will have

no choice but to seek a new profession.

At a time when racial tensions are on everyone's minds it is essential to not forget that the UH theatre department has a world renowned Asian theatre program. One of the best in the United States. We have international students from Asia that come to UH to study traditional Asian theatrical practices. We have the only Hawaiian theatre program, by eliminating the MA/PhD and reducing MFA concentrations you are specifically attacking one of the only opportunities people have to study the arts with a Hawaiian focus in higher ed. If the university is hoping to repair its currently strained relationship with the indigenous community, this is the wrong way to do it. In 2019 UH's most popular show was Hawaiian show, a show which was invited to open a New York theatre festival. And this is not to mention the vital work that our Hanakeaka program has done for the revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawaii. If there are no graduate opportunities (or significantly reduced opportunities) then you are signing this program's death warrant — when Kumu Haili'opua Baker retires who will continue her work? Will they be forced to seek a degree outside of country? If so, then nothing has been accomplished. The university will again be asserting its attitude toward the Hawaiian people as that of a performative ally — eager to capitalize off the culture by calling itself a "Hawaiian place of learning" while undercutting the ability of students to learn anything Hawaiian.

My final point is that none of these cuts will actually help the university in a significant way, and display an ignorance of the theatre department. Yes, there are a number of MFA concentrations, yes the programs are not always filled. They exist because theatrical education at its base is very similar, the concentrations allow students to specialize in specific areas of interest. Areas like Asian Theatre, Hawaiian Theatre, TYA puppetry, etc. However the faculty teaching is the same for many of these areas and are also necessary for the undergraduate degrees, cutting pathways just eliminates possibilities for students. We have a lot of concentrations because the department is diverse; if you're only studying western theatre (like many other American universities) then of course you need fewer concentrations, that's doesn't mean it's a good thing. When students are not enrolled in a concentration, or it has lower enrollment, it doesn't cost the university any more because the faculty are simply teaching in one of the other concentrations. The way the department is designed is modular and sustainable. The shows work on a rotation. An MA in puppetry doesn't need for every show to have puppets. Likewise, the faculty aren't only teaching puppetry. It's not like everyone is just twiddling their thumbs wasting university money when a show without puppets is going on.

The program has managed to produce award winning shows even as the university has continued to cut funding over the past decades. I implore the university not to make it more difficult for people in this industry especially at a time when we are all already experiencing financial instability.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jonah Bobilin

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Pearl City
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rachel Booze <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:08 AM

Reply-To: rachelnb25@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Rachel Booze
 Email rachelnb25@gmail.com
 Phone Number (719) 6379909
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Additional Comments The UH dance program has changed my life for the better forever in ways that can't be matched by other dance experiences. It is a unique program that simply isn't offered anywhere else and to cut it for minor monetary purposes would be a mistake. What is gained from this program every semester from each individual lucky enough to participate is incomparable to anything else

offered at this school, it's not just a fun artsy option, dance goes so much deeper culturally and teaches life lessons and human lessons that will be applied forever.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Rachel Booze

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Colorado Springs
State / Province: CO
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Natalie Borsky <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:02 PM

Reply-To: natalieborsky2000@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name: Natalie Borsky
 Email: natalieborsky2000@gmail.com
 Phone Number: (808) 5427160
 Date: 05-31-2000
 Letter Heading: To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks,
in an ongoing conversation with the community you have
been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Natalie Borsky

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ember Brock <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:47 PM

Reply-To: ebrock@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Ember Brock
Email ebrock@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 4285853
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

The Theater Department helped to protect my students in a pandemic. They provided materials to make masks as well as donated 70 masks for my school. They truly are a blessing.
I enjoyed the program while I was at UH, and I met some amazing people. To have them support me and my

students in a global pandemic is amazing. Please don't take this away from anyone.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Ember Brock

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Aiea

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Vanessa Brooks <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:13 PM

Reply-To: vlbdancer@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Vanessa Brooks

Email vlbdancer@gmail.com

Phone Number (760) 5187097

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

The arts are everything! Dance, theatre, and music are our culture. Hawaii deserves to have universities that are focused on the Arts. It is important that state Universities and College campuses continue to offer these degrees. Most Fine Art Colleges are private, costly, and are not feasible for most out of state families. Please keep the Arts Thriving!!!

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Vanessa Brooks

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Amy Bukarau <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:25 AM

Reply-To: amybukarau@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Amy Bukarau
 Email amybukarau@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 7537135
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Additional Comments As an MFA graduate of dance from UH I have directly benefited from the amazing dance and theatre program here. These programs are vital to the community here in Hawaii. I urge you to take a closer look and to keep programs that enrich and educate both students and non students lives in significant ways.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Amy Bukarau

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1567 Ulupii st](#)
State / Province: Kailua, Hawaii
Country: other

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Christian Burns <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:37 PM

Reply-To: burns.ck@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Christian Burns
Email burns.ck@gmail.com
Phone Number (510) 7017029
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

I'm an Adjunct Professor of Dance for Lines Ballet BFA at Dominican University. If you make the choice to cut Dance & Theater departments you will essentially be cutting the soul out of your entire school. Find another solution to the strain on budget conditions.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

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Signature



Name:

Christian Burns

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Berkeley

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Whitney Cabael <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:13 PM

Reply-To: whitney_lindsey@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Whitney Cabael
Email whitney_lindsey@yahoo.com
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments: KEEP IT!!

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Whitney Cabael

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Waipahu

State / Province: Hi

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

withdraw option to Stop-Out Ethnic Studies BA

Ellen Cachola <ellenrae@hawaii.edu>
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM

Dear Board of Regents,

My name is Ellen-Rae Cachola and I am a lecturer for the Department of Ethnic Studies.

I am writing to demand that you oppose and withdraw the proposed option to Stop-Out the Ethnic Studies BA, which was stated in the recent Mānoa Budget Team recommendations.

The history of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa was foundational in developing Hawaiian Studies, as it was Hawaiian and immigrant students who worked together to demand the University of Hawai'i had curriculum relevant to the ethnic communities they come from. Ethnic Studies brought together students to create research about the indigenous and immigrant peoples, and their experiences under the plantation system, colonization, and racisms that led to their communities experiencing eviction, economic exploitation, military occupation, and other oppressions that still underlie the problems we are facing today. UH Administrators made statements that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa would participate in Hawai'i's post-recovery efforts by being an indigenous serving institution. But the option to stop-out Ethnic Studies acts to erase the history of how Indigenous students fought for a place within the University through the development of Ethnic Studies.

Ethnic Studies has conducted social historical research on various ethnic groups, such as Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese, Caucasian, and how they were impacted and stratified by the plantation economy. These ethnic groups were ranked by race, class, and gender according to who would be most "productive" to be managers of the plantation, or who would be disposable, less paid workers. This history explains the reasons why certain ethnic groups, such as Filipinos and Micronesian islanders, are forced to be "essential workers" as they are being paid minimum wage, service jobs, that do not give them the privilege to work from home. Yet they are the ones disproportionately contracting COVID-19. Ethnic Studies has the scholars and resources to analyze this history. Yet the proposal to stop-out the Ethnic Studies BA will perform an act of anti-intellectualism that will reproduce a blind eye on the systematic policies and institutional practices that perpetuate social inequality in our State. This time of COVID-19 demands that we can and must do better by fiscally supporting and uplifting Ethnic Studies as a department that can contribute to solve problems our state faces, not diminishing and starving it.

Ethnic Studies documents the history and contemporary of ongoing labor organizing in these working class communities. This history is important to research and teach to all students and researchers coming through the UH Mānoa and System, because economic recovery will not be genuine unless the rights of the indigenous, immigrant and working class people are listened to and addressed. If people do not know about this history, they will not know who to include as important stakeholders in the process of recovering, or re-defining, Hawai'i's economy.

Please remove the proposed option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies because it would be detrimental to your vision for UH Mānoa to participate in the recovery of the State after covid-19. Targeting this department for stop-out will make this University out of touch with the socio-economic conditions of the indigenous, immigrant, and local communities that this university purports to serve. It will also hollow the University's mission to be a place dedicated to Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific. Many people of these nations have experienced displacement and urbanization, and are now living as diasporas in Hawai'i and the continental U.S. Ethnic Studies teaches and focuses on these contemporary Hawai'i cultures and histories with our students so that they are recognized and seen as agents in shaping Hawai'i, Asia and the Pacific for the 21st century.

Please withdraw the proposed option to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies BA degree.

Thank you for your attention.

Ellen-Rae Cachola, Ph.D.

Ellen-Rae Cachola, Ph.D.
Evening Supervisor & Archives Manager
Lecturer, Department of Ethnic Studies

P (808) 956-2867 | E ellenrae@hawaii.edu

University of Hawai'i School of Law Library · [2525 Dole Street](#) · [Honolulu, HI 96822](#)-2328

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kimo.jpg
2K



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ellen-Rae Cachola <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:18 PM

Reply-To: ellenrae@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Ellen-Rae Cachola
Email ellenrae@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 6460844
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I am a recipient of the UHM Theater Department program. I participated in the Last King of Bali production as a community participant. The production was recognized in 2020 with a Po'okela Award as best ensemble production. The Theater program is important because it is doing theater and cultural arts research that is relevant to the Southeast Asian populations in Hawai'i. As a Filipino

person in Hawai'i, the production, focused on Balinese arts, the work has sparked questions on pre-colonial Southeast Asian studies, and how Philippines is connected to that. These questions are crucial for inspiring more research for Filipino students, who are a large student population in the UH System.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Ellen-Rae Cachola

I am a UH Manoa:

Staff Member

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Francis Camuso <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:28 PM

Reply-To: fmcamuso@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Francis Camuso

Email fmcamuso@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (831) 8404256

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments: Putting a monetary value on our bodies displays the neoliberalist agenda made by the Admin. This will not stand!

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Francis Camuso

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kenneth Capes <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:58 PM

Reply-To: capesken@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Kenneth Capes
Email	capesken@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 3929899
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

The arts can not die in our communities. A society without art and the various means to express it is just plain boring and not living life to it's fullest. We all seek entertainment, meditation, expression, connection, and so on....we must continue to perpetuate the arts by any means necessary! PLEASE LET ALL ARTS PROGRAMS CONTINUE IN THE UH COMMUNITY!

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature



Name:

Kenneth Capes

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: [95-2084 Waikalani Place Mililani 96789](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Celena Carlsberg <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:29 AM

Reply-To: celenab@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Celena Carlsberg
Email	celenab@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(360) 2442269
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments	Though my letter was not written in its entirety by me, I agree wholeheartedly with its contents.
---------------------	---

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Celena Carlsberg

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Sophia Carter <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:52 AM

Reply-To: sophiaec@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Sophia Carter
Email	sophiaec@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(408) 8041333
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Additional Comments	We are valuable We are worth protecting We are relevant, appropriate, and needed for this generation and this time in our nation.
---------------------	---

NOW IS THE TIME to invest in the arts, the performing arts.

We are spearheading our nation that is THIRSTING for social justice, multicultural ethics, discussion, critical thinking, understanding, and growth.

How do we get the message out? If we get the message out, students will come. They want this! They just don't know we have it!

PLEASE INVEST IN A MARKETING STRATEGY.

Let the UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA BE A BEACON for our nation at this time. A place where students can come to think deeply, to discuss freely, to learn their heritage, to learn cultures other than their own, to synthesize, to progress, to display, to inform, to respect, TO LEAD OUT.

If it isn't happening at the University level right here and right now, and in our very unique ethno-geographic location, where will it happen? How will we ever reach and progress toward reconciliation and reparation, how will we change for the betterment of everyone?

This happens in the ARTS.

This happens in the DANCE department.

THIS HAPPENS HERE at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Save us!

Market us!

BE PROUD OF US!

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Signature



Name:

Sophia Carter

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [2702 Pu'uhonua Street](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Angelika Catiggay <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:27 PM

Reply-To: aimcatig@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Angelika Catiggay

Email aimcatig@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 6395718

Date 06-18-2000

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments: These programs are just as important as any other. They provide opportunities to students not just in the workforce, but to find themselves, find friends that last a lifetime, and learn new skills that they may not learn any where else.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to

survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Angelika Catiggay

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Lihue

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



RE: Ethnic Studies

Paul Chandler <cpaul@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:40 PM

Dear Honorable Regents,
I am writing to express my strongest support for the Ethnic Studies program, which has been a strong force for fifty years.
The faculty, staff and students are outstanding. They truly meet important needs within our state. I hope the university will be strongly persuaded to maintain this vital program.
Mahalo,
Paul M. Chandler

--

Paul Michael Chandler
Professor of Spanish
Office: (808) 956-8828

See the UH website to support undocumented students.
<https://www.hawaii.edu/undocumented-students/>



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Please Support Keeping the Dance Degrees

Lianne Chang <liannelhchang@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:10 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Dear President David Lassner,

My name is Lianne Chang. I have been a resident of Hawaii my entire life. I am writing in response to your proposal to stop out all Dance Degrees. I am utterly shocked and appalled at this proposal. My niece who was a dance major at UH informed me of this. That you would so callous to an art form that values the body, and those faculty and students who have devoted their entire lives to the wellbeing of our bodies and community in the middle of a global health crisis, to even propose such a thing is unbelievable to me. Surely you can cut funds in other places that can afford to lose some excess like the sciences.

First of all, I would like to share that I am also a dance fan and regular Kennedy Theatre audience member. I have been coming to UHM Dance concerts at Kennedy Theater for over 20 years. I can say that they have all been fabulous and have only gotten better in the last decade. The UHM Dance degree program is unique locally and in the whole world as far as I can tell. They are the only folks I know that are producing serious contemporary performance and dance on this island. In almost every concert they have also included a new work by Native Hawaiian, Asian, or Pacific artists. The most recent shows that I have adored include Ocean's Motion, which featured an hour long dance including a collaboration between Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine, Kara Jhalak Miller, and Amy Schiffner. A side note that Kumu Vicky taught Hula for 40 years at UH and all of the dance majors were required to take her class. My niece included! Another of my favorite shows was MemoryHouse:DREAMS which featured new innovative possibilities with interactive technology and live performance. This show had superb contemporary choreography by the dance faculty and local Hawaiian Artists including Peter Rockford Espiritu, Sami L.A. Akuna, and Kumu Vicky. The show also brought Aboriginal indigenous artist Francis Rings from Australia to work with the students and included a new Balinese Dance choreography. Kudos to Miller and Schiffner for having the vision to invite so many local and international artists. They connected their students to future work opportunities. Additional recent performances that focused on diversity included Taiko Drum and Dance produced by Betsy Fisher working together with Kenny Endo's Taiko ensemble. Also Integral Bodies by Peiling Kao with a much needed integration with disabled dancers.

Why I keep coming back to the dance program performances is because of their focus on the new and experimental. The dance program is meeting the needs and demands of our younger generation. They are not living in the past of tradition. I believe that young artists need to be exposed to contemporary artists in order to create their own stories. From what I've heard, I understand also that the dance program faculty has recently hired the first dark skin person of color Lorenzo Perillo in the Department of Theatre and Dance. While I am not suggesting the administration is being racist in any way by proposing to cut the dance degrees, I want to say good on the dance program faculty for having the vision all these years to work with the local community until they can finally diversify some of the full time tenure track positions after senior faculty retire. That you would try to dismiss dance degrees when more than half the dance faculty are now BIPOC artists in a pressing time of Black Lives Matters is beyond me. You need these dance degrees. Our local students need these dance degrees. We need all the dance faculty, Betsy Fisher, Amy Schiffner, Kara Jhalak Miller, Peiling Kao, and Lorenzo Perillo and their students to lead the way into the future through dance. Good heavens support them and give them the resources they need to inspire the community.

The UHM Dance degree program is creating a leading example of a contemporary and indigenous serving performance vision that other dance programs in universities around the world will follow. If you cut the dance degrees, I will no longer support the activities of UH. You lose all credibility in my eyes.

Mahalo nui for your consideration. Please allow the dance degree programs to continue.

Lianne Chang



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Darlyn Chau <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:45 PM

Reply-To: dchau22@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Darlyn Chau
Email dchau22@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 2303369
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

The theatre and dance department is equally as any other department on campus. UHM claims to be diverse in the student body, so let's also be diverse in what we offer. Theatre and dance is another course that will allow students to touch base with their creativity, as well as learn more about art, culture, and craft around the world.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Darlyn Chau

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [502 Captain Cook Ave Apt 103](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

India Ching <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:15 PM

Reply-To: ikcc@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	India Ching
Email	ikcc@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3724709
Date	05-09-2001
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

Dance is a huge part of my life, as well as many others. It makes me happy and it allows me to establish so many connections. With the dance program at UH, I know that many love to dance and a passionate about this. It is heartbreaking to even think that this action is considered. Please acknowledge those who support the Dance program.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

India Ching

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nadine Chun-Imamura <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:47 PM

Reply-To: chunshouse@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Nadine Chun-Imamura
Email	chunshouse@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(808) 2629096
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments:

Hello, I am an alumni of UH .Although my major was not in Dance. I did participate in several dance classes. I enjoyed the dance classes and believe these classes kept my mind keen and allowed me to focus on my other classes that dealt with my major. I believe that the dance classes I took helped me use up pent up energy, thus I was able to concentrate on my book studies.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1331 Akumu St. Kailua](#)

State / Province: ,HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Erin Chung <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:04 AM

Reply-To: erinhchung@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Erin Chung
Email	erinhchung@gmail.com
Phone Number	(205) 3704870
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
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Additional Comments	I could not have become a professional SAG-AFTRA actor without the Dept of Theatre and Dance at UH Manoa. Covid will make this program more relevant than ever, not less. Who will tell our stories if not the graduates of the T and D department? Please do not cut this program. It is vital, it is necessary, it is essential.
---------------------	--

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Signature



Name:

Erin Chung

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Hilo
State / Province: Hi
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

"stop-outs" of degree programs in Theatre

Cohen, Matthew <matthew.i.cohen@uconn.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:02 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrislil@hawaii.edu" <tbrislil@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear David Lassner,

It is with great dismay that I have been informed by my colleagues Professor Kirstin Pauka, who head UoH's Asian theatre program, about the "stop-outs" of Theatre degree programs, including the Ph.D. in Asian theatre.

I am writing in my capacity as a senior academic in the field of Asian theatre studies and also as someone who had the great pleasure of spending a summer at the University of Hawaii in 1988, studying Indonesian language in the SEASSI program and participating in Asian theatre activities (including a wayang kulit production directed by Marc Hoffman and the late Hardjo Susilo and a kabuki performance directed by the late Professor James Brandon).

Asian theatre at Hawaii has a huge international reputation and is unique in the world for its approach which involves a combination of practical study under Asian theatre masters in the context of annual productions with academic study. Graduates of the program have seeded the development of Asian theatre in the US and internationally. The journal Asian Theatre Journal began its life as a departmental newsletter and since its inception has been the preeminent academic journal in the field. (I am proudly one of the area editors for this journal.) The program plays a significant role as an arts ambassador internationally – the Asian artists who regularly contribute through residencies are advocates on behalf of it. Each production involves substantial community investment and involvement—it goes a long way to building town-gown relations. Asian theatre along with the East-West Center and other Asian-oriented facets of the university are what makes the university great. These institutions are also important for the economic well-being of the state- as they establish Hawaii as being friendly to Asian investment and tourism. A "stop-out" of the Ph.D. program in Asian theatre would damage the reputation of the program. The Ph.D. students are the lifeblood of the department – they are not only essential to the annual Asian theatre productions, they are also hugely important in furthering Asian theatre studies as a discipline internationally post-graduation.

It strikes me that at this moment of global crisis, what is needed is further investment in Asian theatre rather than less. I would be happy to consult if there is an interest in moving in this direction.

Yours,

Matthew Cohen

--

Professor Matthew Isaac Cohen

Department of Dramatic Arts

University of Connecticut

9/14/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - "stop-outs" of degree programs in Theatre

[802 Bolton Road, Unit-1127](#)

[Storrs, CT 06269-1127, USA](#)

Telephone: +1 (860) 486-2281

Fax: +1 (860) 486-3110

Email: matthew.i.cohen@uconn.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Opposition of Proposed Cuts

Shanel Crawford <shanelc@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:27 PM

To: David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>, David Lassner <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>

Cc: Michael Bruno <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, Thomas Brislin <tbrislin@hawaii.edu>, Kimi Kondo-Brown <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

I write to you today to express my strongest and most powerful protest against the proposed elimination of various degree programs.

I believe an email is not enough to summarize why I am against these proposals.

Therefore, please direct your attention to the letter attached below.

I thank you for your time, and hope to have future conversations that can lead to a compromise.

Sincerely,

Shanel Crawford

--

Shanel Crawford
Theatre and ICS Undergraduate
shanelc@hawaii.edu

**Keep Theatre and Dance (1).pdf**

34K

Shanel Crawford
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
shanelc@hawaii.edu

September 14, 2020

To:

President David Lassner
University of Hawai'i
2444 Dole Street
Bachman Hall 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear President Lassner,

I am writing as a University of Hawai'i at Manoa student. I write to express my strongest and most powerful protest against the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks). To cut programs that have influenced many generations of students, alumni, educators, and community members will be a great loss.

The arts is an indispensable part of culture and education, and to be rid of the arts is to create an impoverished education that leads to an impoverished society. Theatre and Dance have been a part of not only the Hawaiian culture but all cultures around the world. Various cultures have valued these forms of expression to tell stories that future generations can hold onto. To take away a major part of the arts is taking away culture, self-expression, and opportunities for many to understand one another. These budget cuts tell future educators, students, children, and many

community members that creativity, culture, indigenous knowledge, and compassion and progress of coexistence have no place in the state of Hawaii.

As per mentioned by many others in other emails, to take place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead I urge:

“Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.”

Although I am only one voice, I can say that many are distraught over these proposals.

Therefore, I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal for these proposed cuts, and to be able to hear of future news to preserve the arts. Finally, I look forward to having any further conversations that can lead to a compromise that will be in the best interest of everyone.

Sincerely,

Shanel Crawford



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Leasa Cruz <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:59 AM

Reply-To: lecruz@clinique.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Leasa Cruz
Email	lecruz@clinique.com
Phone Number	(562) 6188498
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Suggested Letter body which you may edit:	Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.
---	---

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your

9/15/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks,
in an ongoing conversation with the community you have
been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Leasa Cruz

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [7989 Aldea Circle](#)

State / Province: Huntington Beach, Ca.

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jennifer De Costa <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:47 AM

Reply-To: jdecosta820@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Jennifer De Costa
 Email jdecosta820@gmail.com
 Phone Number (818) 5667428
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I graduated with a BA in Dance and an MFA in Directing Asian Theater. Since graduating, I toured the Hawaiian Islands with my Japanese/Hawaiian Tales for the many schools in the Islands. They teachers appreciated the combination of bring their classes to understand Hawaii's legends and culture. After moving to California, I taught Readers Theater and Drama to multiple classes for over

ten years, helping students learn how to express themselves by realizing what they are reading and pass that on to their classmates. We had weekly classroom reading, contests, performances every semester, which the principals appreciated. These arts programs give more to the students than anyone in the legislature can imagine.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Jennifer De Costa

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 2312 Verdugo Ave.
State / Province: CA - California
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Camryn Despain <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:57 AM

Reply-To: cdespain@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Camryn Despain
Email	cdespain@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(405) 4435565
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	As a retired professional Ballet dancer, I can say that having the arts in your life is extremely important thing to many. If you take that part of them away in any way, like cutting their major, then they do not have an outlet to express themselves. That is their life and taking it away from them would not be fair.
---------------------	---

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

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It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the

helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Camryn Despain

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kimberly Diaz <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:12 PM

Reply-To: kndiaz@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Kimberly Diaz
Email kndiaz@hawaii.edu
Phone Number () 8322841395
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

As a student that has learned from at least one of these courses, I oppose any budget cuts to this department due to their education in Hawaiian studies and other social topics. Many students take these courses learning more than they expected. I can say that I am more educated in Hawaiian and social conflicts after taking THEA101 alone.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Kkemberly Diaz

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [4812 matsonia drive](#)
State / Province: Honolulu
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nathan Drackett <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:15 PM

Reply-To: ndracks@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Nathan Drackett
Email	ndracks@gmail.com
Phone Number	(224) 9357391
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

This is my first year at the University of Hawaii, and as a 20-year professional in the theatre field, higher education in theatre has been the only thing that made my career in theatre possible, and gave me the tools to support myself in the arts. What's more, the only reason that I applied to University of Hawaii was because of the Theatre for Young Audiences MFA and the various tracks (or

concentrations) that were available. Cutting or reducing these would make the TYA MFA track vastly underperform in comparison with similar tracks across the country, and would guarantee its decline if not its erasure. If you need proof of TYA's importance in the theatre field as well as our country's education, you've already hired amazing professors in that field, and it's obvious that you haven't bothered to talk to them about how best to solve your budgeting crisis.

Hearing the Chair, Deans, and Assistant Deans of my School talk about how poorly you communicated these recommended changes made it clear that your ability to collaborate and communicate clearly could greatly benefit from the lessons taught through the creative process used in theatre and dance.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Nathan Drackett

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Kaneohe

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Letter of support for the UHM doctoral program in Asian Theater

Christian DuComb <cducomb@colgate.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:16 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, pauka@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner:

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the potential "stop out" of the doctoral program in Asian Theatre at the University of Hawaii Manoa. As you are no doubt aware, the doctoral program in Asian Theatre is the only program of its kind in the United States. Faculty, students, and graduates of the program have produced some of the best scholarship available in English on Japanese, Chinese, Indian, and southeast Asian theatre. Although I am not a specialist in Asian theatre, I regularly teach a Global Theatre course at Colgate University, and I depend on the expertise generated through UHM's superb doctoral program to guide and refresh my pedagogy. My position is hardly unique: few small colleges on the mainland have in-house Asian theatre experts, and generalists like me look to UHM's Department of Theatre and Dance for the latest and best research on Asian theatre.

As you face difficult budgetary decisions in the coming years, I want you to know that UHM's doctoral program in Asian theatre contributes substantially to your university's national and international reputation among both artists and scholars in the performing arts. It also affirms Hawaii's unique geographic and cultural position as a bridge between Asia and the mainland United States -- a role that will likely grow in importance in the years ahead. I hope you will invest the necessary resources to maintain UHM's excellent Department of Theatre and Dance, and to support the vital role of its doctoral program as a leading source of new knowledge about Asian theatre in the English-speaking world.

Sincerely,

Christian DuComb

--

COLGATE UNIVERSITY**Christian DuComb, Ph.D.** (he/him/his)

Associate Professor of Theater

315-228-7993, cducomb@colgate.eduAuthor, *Haunted City: Three Centuries of Racial Impersonation in Philadelphia*



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kelina Eldredge <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:49 AM

Reply-To: kelina.eldredge@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Kelina Eldredge
Email	kelina.eldredge@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2038961
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	As a dancer, I know the benefits it brings to my life. It has helped shaped who I am. I would hate that opportunity to be taken away for other performers.
---------------------	--

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Kelina Eldredge

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Ewa Beach

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

SAVE THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Rose Elovitz <relovitz@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:45 PM

Aloha,

I am a student at the University of Hawai'i in both the political science and ethnic studies programs and I am emailing you to express my support to keep ethnic studies as its own field of study. Hawai'i is often acknowledged as a place that is home to a plethora of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. For the University to boast that it is a welcoming, multiethnic institution, and then to dissolve the very department that uplifts the communities it claims to care for would be a hypocritical error. Furthermore, this budget cut proposal completely ignores the calls across the country to support more ethnic studies programs in light of the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other innocent Black people. As an educational institution, I would hope that the administrators would recognize their power they possess to put education first.

Mahalo nui,

Rose Elovitz.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Lily Engh <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:08 PM

Reply-To: likyengh@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Lily Engh
Email likyengh@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 3853121
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

ADDITIONALLY: The same goes for the ethnic studies department. Ethnic Studies is a vital part of any university that wishes to teach its students acceptance and appreciation for a diversity of cultures and histories. Cutting this department would be an insurmountable loss to the UH Mānoa community and to the culture of tolerance and aloha on campus.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Lily Engh

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Writing to OPPOSE the stop-out of ES

Daniela Escontrela <daniescontrela@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:35 PM

Hello,

I am a graduate student in Marine Biology at UH Manoa and I am writing to strongly reject and condemn the proposed action to “stop out” the ES BA. The proposed “stop out” of ES ignores and demeans the legacies of Hawai‘i’s multi-ethnic peoples that the department continues to uphold and pass on to new generations of students. In the current climate of a national racial reckoning, and given how diverse this state is, the fact that the option to “stop out” ES is even being given consideration is tone-deaf and imprudent. It is clear that ES is being targeted under the false veil of a pandemic-induced budget crisis - this is nothing short of institutional racism.

I **strongly petition** the Mānoa Budget Team to provide evidence on how the option to “stop-out” ES will result in immediate projected savings and **demand** that the administration stop targeting Ethnic Studies and immediately withdraw the option to “stop-out” ES. It is also worth mentioning that the option to “stop out” ES will trigger a decrease in majors, weaken ES and provide no short-term cost savings for the university. Stop now this act of institutional racism.

I, Daniela Escontrela, **strongly oppose** the proposed option to stop-out the Ethnic Studies BA program.

Dani Escontrela
PhD Student, Marine Biology
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Edmondson Hall 418
2538 McCarthy Mall
Honolulu, HI 96822



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Lyle Eugenio <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:08 PM

Reply-To: lyleae@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Lyle Eugenio
Email lyleae@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (800) 3861385
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Theatre101 has taught me more than just performing arts. Performing arts is a community where like mind individuals are able to share similar interests. As a former UH undergrad student, I urge you to not eliminate the degree programs listed in the letter heading.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Lyle Eugenio

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [94-1021 Awalai Street](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Cassie Favreau-Chung <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:23 PM

Reply-To: cassiefavreau@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Cassie Favreau-Chung

Email cassiefavreau@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 4976412

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments: These programs are absolutely vital and it would be an embarrassment if the University of Hawaii got rid of degrees that foster such empathy. These programs allow the study of innate human connection, and helps to create successful individuals in our society.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

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Signature



Name:

Cassie Favreau-Chung

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [94-419 Lanikuhana Place, #1095](#)

State / Province: Mililani, HI 96789

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

The importance of the Theatre and Dance Department at UH Manoa

Margot Fitzsimmons <margot.margarine@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:38 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, Mark Branner <branner@hawaii.edu>

Dear UH President David Lassner,

My name is Margot Fitzsimmons and I am a theatre educator and director who graduated with an MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences at UH Manoa in 2016. While there I had the unique opportunity to participate in the Asian Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences, Western Theatre Department and Dance Department.

In the Theatre for Young Audiences Department I served as the Theatre for Young Audiences Coordinator. I was responsible for arranging school visits to the Theatre for Young Audiences shows at the Kennedy Theater by managing reservations, and being a liaison and resource for teachers for pre and post workshops and performances. There was a certain performance that I saw at Kennedy Theater that brought me to tears. The performance was called "Lā'ieikawai," the first Hawaiian language play on the Kennedy Theatre Mainstage. It made history and educated and entertained, all in one go. I remained silent and watched as these students who saw the performance from the community had just seen themselves represented on stage for the first time, in their own language. It was a production that was long overdue and one that they had been waiting for a long time. After the actors took their bows and received their standing ovation the applause subsided. High school students in the audience remained standing and began to sing in their native Hawaiian language to show their gratitude for the performance. What we had just witnessed was the first stage adaptation of the traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo (story) of Lā'ieikawai on the Kennedy Theater Mainstage. Right then and there, I realized that theater has the power to unite a community and validate our experiences. Not only did it give me a true understanding of what theater can do, but has helped me enhance my theater practice to support underrepresented communities to have a voice in the classroom and onstage.

I come from the mainland from a small town in Woodstock, Virginia and had the privilege to be exposed to many different cultures and art forms in Hawai'i by participating in the Theatre department at UH Manoa. It not only helped shape me as an artist, but also as a human being. There is no other department like it on the mainland where you can study, perform and research Theatre for Young Audiences, Asian Theatre and Hawaiian Theatre in one single department. I have benefited from going to UH and it has given me the opportunity to be the Head of the Theatre Department at my school and be a Dean.

I beg of you, please do not cut the funding or eliminate the department. I am pleading with you for the survival of the department. KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to these degree programs. This program has allowed me to live my passions and explore different cultures. We need to keep this program alive because it is one of a kind. There are very few Theatre for Young Audiences Programs in the United States and UH is held in high regard. Wiping out the department has huge repercussions and hinders the Theatre for Young Audiences field.

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i.

I do hope, as a UH Theatre for Young Audiences Alumni, that you will reconsider making budget cuts and wiping out an entire department. Thank you so much for taking this into consideration. Please feel free to email me if you have any further questions or concerns.

All the best,

Margot Fitzsimmons



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Lili Flores <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:52 PM

Reply-To: lraygoza@ucla.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Lili Flores
Email lraygoza@ucla.edu
Phone Number (310) 2545193
Date 10-15-1990
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

As an artist and research fellow at UCLA, I am an advocate for creative expression and collaboration as intrinsic to the fabric of all cultures. Collaboration, improvisation and creativity are skills that are needed during this globally tumultuous period. Dance and theater practitioners open dialogue and make invisible internal states legible to wide audiences. I urge you to continue to

support the arts if your institution wants to survive and thrive into the future.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature



Name:

Lili Flores

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Los Angeles

State / Province: California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Please, Don't Cut Off the Funding of The Department of Theatre and Dance.

Oluwapelumi M Olufolajimi <oolufo1@lsu.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:31 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
 Cc: "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>, "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>, "tbrislil@hawaii.edu" <tbrislil@hawaii.edu>, Kirstin Pauka <pauka@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Hello Mr. David Lassner,

My name is Pelumi Folajimi.

I am a Doctoral Candidate of Comparative Literature, Louisiana State University.

In Spring Semester, 2019, I was a Visiting Researcher in the Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I discovered it to be a generous Department which hosts and celebrates a lot of cultural activities.

They perform plays that celebrate Hawaiian culture and History.

They perform plays that educate their audiences about Hawaiian Philosophy and Hawaiian Heritage.

Knowing that Hawaii has a lot of Asian and Asian-American residents and tourists,

The Department hosts a lot of Japanese and other Asian events and plays.

The Department also produces plays that celebrate American history and American culture.

Again, the Department has trained many scholars who are Professors in other American and Asian universities.

The Department has produced excellent alumni who continue to thrive in politics and other economic aspects of the United States, China, and other parts of Asia.

It is a Department with a huge heritage and bountiful legacies.

It was disturbing, therefore, to realize that there is a proposal to scrap this thriving and highly productive Department.

It is sad that, in this first place, that error was conceived.

It is an error that I hope would be, immediately, addressed and corrected with an apology.

Please, do not hesitate to withdraw this erring intension of yours.

What the Department needs is more funding, not a withdrawal of the existing ones.

Please, provide more funding for the Department and help them to flourish more.

Thank you for your anticipated generous considerations

9/14/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - Please, Don't Cut Off the Funding of The Department of Theatre and Dance.

With Hope and Trust,
Pelumi Folajimi



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Robert Foran <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:02 PM

Reply-To: robert.foran@sjsu.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Robert Foran
Email robert.foran@sjsu.edu
Phone Number (415) 9404917
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

During a time of a global pandemic, the explicitness of institutionalized racism and white supremacy, not to mention the socio-political upheaval dividing our nation, to murder the arts in any expressing, would be downright foolish and arrogant.

The ways in which the arts are vital in the negotiation and

transformation of such challenges in our world are incomprehensible. Do not be on the wrong side of history. Folks remember... trust me.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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Signature



Name:

Robert Foran

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [411 Porter-Kresge Road](#), University of California,
Santa Cruz

State / Province: California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ananda Frazier <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:17 PM

Reply-To: anandaf@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Ananda Frazier
Email	anandaf@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(415) 7676450
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments:

As well as Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Ananda Frazier

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jansen Ganal <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:04 PM

Reply-To: janseng@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Jansen Ganal

Email janseng@hawaii.edu

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Signature



Name:

Jansen Ganal

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawai'i

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Cherie Gendron <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:02 PM

Reply-To: cgendron@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Cherie Gendron

Email cgendron@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (832) 312-0411

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Signature



Name:

Cherie Gendron

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ronald Gilliam <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:36 AM

Reply-To: ronaldgilliam@outlook.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Ronald Gilliam
Email	ronaldgilliam@outlook.com
Phone Number	(212) 7679086
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	As an alumni of UHM, cutting the innovative Theatre & Dance degrees, especially the graduate program, will prevent me from donating to UHM in the future. Elimination of the only Asian Theatre advanced degree program in the West will only hamper UH's role in global education.
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Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward

establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Ronald Gilliam

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Brooklyn

State / Province: NY

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jennifer Gongaware <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:57 PM

Reply-To: jgonga@sbcglobal.net

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jennifer Gongaware
Email jgonga@sbcglobal.net
Phone Number (512) 7846301
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I was one of the original Rainbow Dancers! The arts are critical to the health in a robust community.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Jennifer Gongaware

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [11101 Little Thicket Rd Austin](#)

State / Province: TX

Country: United States

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Leslie Gonzales <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:17 AM

Reply-To: lesliego@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Leslie Gonzales
 Email lesliego@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 3495532
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments I fully support the students of the Theater and Dance program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. These students deserve to finish their degree and have as many resources available to them as any other programs in UH Manoa.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Leslie Gonzales

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [91-6221 Kapolei Pkwy Unit 415](#)
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Moses Goods <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:14 PM

Reply-To: mosesgoods@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Moses Goods
Email mosesgoods@yahoo.com
Phone Number (808) 2582199
Date 02-14-1977
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

It was because of the UH Theatre program that I was able to establish myself as a leader in the community and establish my career as a Theatre Artist on a national level as well. Hawai'i needs this program. It would be foolhardy to cut it.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Moses Goods

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [2943 Keoni Street](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Myles Graham <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:37 AM

Reply-To: mylesgraham43@gmail.com

To: mhoul@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezz@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Myles Graham
 Email mylesgraham43@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 6797957
 Date 05-26-1993
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments Lassner will be exposed by the MANA IN THIS COMMUNITY. His sins run deep & this island knows.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Myles Graham

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [704 Piikoi St](#)

State / Province: [HI](#)

Country: [United States](#)

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Tyler Greenhill <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:47 PM

Reply-To: tyler.greenhill@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Tyler Greenhill
Email tyler.greenhill@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 2714702
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

Our communities both depend on and thrive because of UHM dance and theatre programs. I cannot count the number of students I have had inside and outside of UHM whose encounters with these programs, whether taking classes, attending productions, etc, have changed their lives for the better. Without programs like Theatre and Dance or Ethnic Studies our communities will suffer.

Additionally, these cuts will do almost nothing to save money, meanwhile a shite athletics program that teaches alcoholism and toxic masculinity runs at an extreme deficit forever. The level of hate and ignorance required to even propose these sorts of cuts is absolutely shameful, tho par for the course with oligarchs like the BOR. Read a book, thanks.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Tyler Greenhill

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Save Ethnic Studies!!

Rachel Greiner <rgreiner@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:06 PM

Aloha UH Board of Regents,

I hope you are well. I am writing out of concern that you may be attempting to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies. I urge you to reconsider.

As a graduate student at UH, I have not of course taken courses in Ethnic Studies myself, but I have attended Ethnic Studies events, worked and volunteered closely with the Center for Oral History, and found emotional and academic support there. This department is unique in that it serves countless people across the university and community. This plan is a thinly-veiled attempt at silencing the powerful work and training the department does that makes Hawai'i a better place. Your administration likes to remind everyone that UH is one of the most diverse schools in the country--but obviously cutting this program sends a clear message to diverse students that they are there for your clout and nothing else. Targeting a small department that helps everyone will not fix the budget issues created by administrators, and pretending this department is not worthy of continuing is frankly institutional racism. Shame on you.

Stop targeting Ethnic Studies and withdraw your plan for the "stop-out." In the end, hurting Ethnic Studies--a department that helps everyone--hurts all of us, even if you can't see it yourself.

Best,

Rachel Greiner
American Studies | Masters Program
Museum Studies | Graduate Certificate
775.530.5988
rgreiner@hawaii.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies

jillgreiner@att.net <jillgreiner@att.net>
 To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
 Cc: Rachel Greiner <rgreiner@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:22 PM

I am writing out of concern that you may be attempting to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies. I urge you to reconsider.

As the parent of a graduate student at UH, I believe this is a grave mistake. My daughter has attended Ethnic Studies events, worked and volunteered closely with the Center for Oral History, and found wonderful emotional and academic support there. This department is unique in that it serves countless people across the university and community. This plan is a thinly-veiled attempt at silencing the powerful work and training the department does that makes Hawai'i a better place. Your administration likes to remind everyone that UH is one of the most diverse schools in the country--but obviously cutting this program sends a clear message to diverse students that they are there for your clout and nothing else. Targeting a small department that helps everyone will not fix the budget issues created by administrators, and pretending this department is not worthy of continuing is frankly institutional racism.

Therefore, please stop targeting Ethnic Studies and withdraw your plan for the "stop-out." In the end, hurting Ethnic Studies--a department that helps everyone--hurts all of us.

Sincerely,

Jill I. Greiner, Esq.

Legal Counsel



A: P.O. Box 91037 | Los Angeles, California 90009

D: 775.322.8443 C: 775.742-2814 F: 775.322.8443

W: TheGrill.com | DailyGrill.com | PSONTap.com



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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Shelby Guajardo <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:26 PM

Reply-To: shelbymbc@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Shelby Guajardo

Email shelbymbc@hotmail.com

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments: Just a supporter of arts and the people who are involved or will be involved if these programs are cut. Please keep these programs!

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

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Signature



Name:

Shelby Guajardo

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [750 14th st ne](#)
State / Province: Salem
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Darla Guajardo <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:54 PM

Reply-To: kpurple.4@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Darla Guajardo
Email kpurple.4@gmail.com
Phone Number (951) 2397204
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I believe it is best to keep this program at UH, not only so students preferring that major don't have to leave the island, but because Hawaii is such a wonderful place to get inspiration as an artist. More students should be able to have that experience!

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Darla Guajardo

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Rochester

State / Province: NY

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Daniel Guajardo <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:14 PM

Reply-To: daniel.c.guajardo@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Daniel Guajardo
Email daniel.c.guajardo@gmail.com
Phone Number (951) 3955620
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

Theatre, and dance need to stay! I planned on transferring to UH soon for theatre specifically. I moved all the way from California to have it cut? Not ok or reasonable at all. Just to line pockets.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Daniel Guajardo

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Ewa Beach

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Bianca Han-Welker <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:42 AM

Reply-To: biancah1323@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzis@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Bianca Han-Welker
Email	biancah1323@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2773014
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Additional Comments I have taken these programs and I have found them as such a fun extra curricular and it is very educational to the students who do want to major in these subjects.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Bianca Han-Welker

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [6737 Friars Rd Unit 191](#)

State / Province: San Diego/California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Dance as Decoration

Becky Helfert Wedll <becky.helfert@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:53 AM

To: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Good Morning,

I am writing today to support the continuation of the Theatre and Dance programs at UH. I am an MFA grad, class of 2008 – with a degree in Choreography and Performance. I am a dance educator, studio owner, and performer in East Helena, Montana. My degree from your university has provided me with the skills and knowledge base to become a successful educator, a successful business owner, and a valuable member of my community – in the Arts, in education, and in business. My degree from UH has led to my success.

Also, I am writing to express my disgust at the idea that the Arts programs at UH are decoration; that they are the “flowers on the front lawn” of the more important parts of the University. As we say here in Montana, that is utter HORSESHIT. The Arts are Hawaii. In Hawaiian culture, both traditional and contemporary, the Arts are an indelible and inextricable part of the whole. And without continuing availability of Arts education to the highest levels, that culture suffers. It is the duty of the University of Hawaii to represent and educate the whole of Hawaii. And, to educate its guests from around the world (of which I was one) on the beauty and validity of Hawaii. Without its Hula programs, without Okinawan dance, without Korean dance, and without the contemporary Western elements of dance – the University of Hawaii fails to represent the best of Hawaii.

I understand that money is a major issue, it is everywhere. But a full scale decimation of the Theatre and Dance programs is unnecessary and dangerous.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please know that an MFA from your university is absolutely not window dressing, it is a path to success.

Sincerely,

Becky Helfert Wedll, MFA 2008



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rachel Heller <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:16 AM

Reply-To: rheller3@hawaii.rr.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Rachel Heller
Email	rheller3@hawaii.rr.com
Phone Number	(808) 3877671
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Additional Comments	The arts are essential to our humanity and we cannot afford to cut this very important and impactful program. Theatre fosters creative problem solving and you must admit that our world needs that skill right now.
---------------------	--

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

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These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to

survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Rachel Heller

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [260 Kailua Road Kailua](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Written testimony regarding proposed program cuts

Robert Hernandez <rh27@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:00 PM

To the Board of Regents at the University of Hawaii at Manoa,

I heard that you are planning on making severe cuts to various programs including Ethnic Studies, Women Studies, Dance, and Theatre. I am writing to inform you that I oppose the proposed cuts. All four of these programs are essential, and part of what makes UHM a good and unique university. Although I am not directly affiliated with any of these four, I stand in solidarity with them. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

--

Robert Hernandez Kajiwara 比嘉孝昌 魏孝昌
PhD in History ABD - Manchester Metropolitan University (Current)
Master of Asian International Affairs student - University of Hawaii at Manoa (Current)
MA in History - University of Nebraska (2019)
BA in History, Asia/Pacific focus - University of Hawaii at Manoa (2015)
AA in Teaching - Leeward Community College (2014)



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ondina Hiel <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Reply-To: ohiel@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Ondina Hiel
Email	ohiel@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 8291121
Date	07-15-2002
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I believe that these programs are extremely valuable to our campus and our community as a whole and strongly oppose the cuts being proposed to these programs.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Ondina Hiel

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Kaneohe

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jordan Higuera <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Reply-To: Jhiguera@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jordan Higuera
Email Jhiguera@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (714) 3234542
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
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Please add your additional comments:

These beautiful majors that contribute to so many students and people's lives cannot be ripped from their hands. Theatre and dance are much more than just a major, they are a lifestyle for many people. Maybe there should be cuts from programs that receive a much more larger budget compared to the arts.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jordan Higuera

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [1837 kalakaua ave](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony Re:Liberal Arts

Jessielyn Ho <jlyho@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:46 PM

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JhLfUpHszpMjD8YnYmjh7rsH42_3TqURRUZs79HEv-Y/edit

To the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa [herein referred to as UHM or "the university"],

SAVE THE ETHICS DEPARTMENT

SAVE LIBERAL ARTS STUDIES

SAVE THE HUMANITIES!

To the rest of those reading this,

The epitome of unethical has peaked from dramatic irony to real life.

We, the student body of UHM, are appalled with the administration's decision to cut funding for the liberal arts departments in favor of STEM.

Departments such as ethics, women's studies, classics, and language acquisition are all in danger of vanishing. The university's decision to cut funding is not only an ironic display of the term "unethical" itself—it is a gross abuse of institutional power.

STEM is not to be overvalued. Liberal arts are not to be undersold. Both are detrimental to the wellbeing of our school, and even our society as a whole.

Leaning too much to one side or the other—even in the midst of a pandemic—is not acceptable.

The students of the university; many alumni and professors, alike—all share a common vision:

The liberal arts departments' fundings stays open.

This abuse of power is not only a display of the corruption that occurs behind closed doors that the administration chooses to hide; it is a sad representation of what is happening in everyday society, right in front of our very faces.

In the midst of a global pandemic, UHM has chosen to close funding for departments that have been shown to maintain a healthy brain.

The university's choices are not supported by the student body, and we wish that they be reevaluated, if not dismissed.

I argue that STEM and liberal arts are ESSENTIAL to each other. They must coexist for human societies to exist harmoniously.

(define. Coexist: to exist together or at the same time)

ie. Encompassing the following mathematical logistics:

Finding the mathematics of feminist intersectionality = Finding the derivatives of feminism

ie. the intersect points of feminism.

(define. Intersectional Feminism: feminist theories that encompasses multiple types [of theories] at one time)

Q: Where do the different types of feminisms intersect and why?

Q: How do they intersect?

Q: When do they intersect?

Liberal feminism does not have a clearly defined set of philosophies, which makes their beliefs abstract. They value individualistic approaches to justice and societal structures instead of blaming inequalities on patriarchal gender relations.[6, Wikip]

I challenge the notion that STEM and humanities must be independent. I argue that they coexist—co-depend, even. However, it is when one is codependent on an outside force that it loses its integrity.

STEM and liberal arts are not mutually exclusive. They are interconnected. Math is art. Ballet is science. Technicality is not strictly enclosed within a scientific context. We are so used to keeping languages separate that we no longer serve the same purposes that our forefathers once did. Music does not sound the same as it once did.

Indeed, gramophones and radios have evolved into smartphones and apple watches. AI and tech has engulfed our world without us even blinking twice.

George Washington, quite literally, could not understand their neighbors in the east whatsoever; so, they could not understand them emotionally, for nothing more than lack of better understanding and perhaps a different world view.

They were challenged in ways that we no longer are. Our neighbors are at the tips of our fingers. We can communicate instantaneously.

Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook...

all at the touch of a glass brick.

It does not matter to us what kind of appeals the "other" has—whatever the other in any given circumstance may be

ie.

{ x = you, y = outside entities that are not you | x is a set of energies that compose you }

ie.

if $f(x) = \text{liberal arts}$, $g(x) = \text{STEM}$

$f(g(x))$ must equal $g(f(x))$.

Liberal arts is the opposite of STEM.

a perpendicular force?

Liberal arts defines who you are.

STEM picks it apart.

Q: what are the inverse functions?

Q: $f(x^{-1}) = ?$

~

Because we are able to empathize so extremely with other human emotions, it has become a second nature. We are able to fulfill the requests, needs...vows even, that we take upon with instantaneous gratification. Our brains are processing information at incredible velocities that have never been met before.

The chemical make up of our brains is completely different than that of George Washington's. I challenge human researchers to break down their anatomy, physiology, psychology. I contest that the components they carried in their blood has been altered so much that we no longer think the same as people during those times. Evolution explains this scientifically. But what does evolution mean artistically?

Liberal arts helps us find out.

Ethics tells us when to stop looking.

I argue that it means that humans are extremely beautiful creatures.

We have evolved our brains without even realizing. We are so caught up in the outside world, that we have forgotten what it means to look for and expand upon inner beauty and the beauty that we *already have*.

Music mimics the heart.

Poetry mimics the mind.

Actions mimic the essence of our bodies. The answers lie in front of our eyelashes. ((wtf is that 成语))

Wipe them clean and look at what you see. Makapiapia [boogers] lie between. Dust particles. Viruses. Infectious bacteria.

COVID-19.

But our bodies are so beautiful that they already know how to repel and reject these foreigners. Our bodies already know what to do in order to get rid of them once they have them.

Over-preparation is a disease that infects the mind. The fear of the worst coming is the ultimate demise of optimism. it can evolve to dementia, depression, PTSD...

Pessimism and optimism lie on a fine line between psychotic spiraling and nuclear warfare. Both are projections the imagination plays and tells us so that it can stay in control of your reality. But the brain is just one organ. We are too focused on what our brains have already done that we are not allowing our other organs to feed into a harmonious, *organic*, energetic loop.

The heart wants to pump and give. The lungs want to breathe.

ie.

{ Organs as vacuums }

(define. Vacuum: 1 : emptiness of space

2a : a space absolutely devoid of matter) (Merriam-Webster)

Organs are “black holes” that suck in every bit of information

Brains vacuum knowledge

Hearts vacuum blood

Central nervous systems vacuum pain

Reproductive organs vacuum sperm&eggs

Human skin is a reflection of organ health; one’s soul. The skin absorbs the outside world only to translate it into your own, unique body language. Emotions translate body language to the body’s organs.

~

So how do we connect them and allow them to expand? We give back.

We, who are privileged enough to breathe freely; we, who take in fresh, clean, non-polluted oxygen for our brains, are the ones who need to take care of those living in the fog of the unknown.

21st century “Smog brain” has been created.

(define: Smog Brain. A brain that has been disillusioned to reality)

Our world as we know it is on fire. The American west coast roars in agony over pyromaniacs who thought it would be “just a prank” to set our forests ablaze.

Smog brain envelopes the brain (nucleus) and its matter/plasma (ie. the mind/imagination), thus deluding and distorting reality from imagination.

Those who suffer from Smog brain do not know how to rid themselves of it, but it is not our “duty” nor “responsibility” to *make or force them* to know.

We do not want more funding for STEM.

We do not want more funding *over* STEM.

We simply want our funding back.

No one side is good nor bad. Neither side may exist without the aid of the other.

So let the other exist.

Let “others” exist.

Focus on what you *already have*, first and foremost. Don't be selfish.

If and only if you are pau [finished] examining that you are indeed safe, healthy, and at peace...

Only then may you focus on those most in need.

Who has the largest amount of people in need?

Where are the largest amounts of people in need?

Why do they have the largest amount of people in need?

How can we help them, respectfully, so that they approve of our methods, as well?

Because this ain't it, UHM admins.

Taking away funding for liberal arts means that UHM is siding with the oppressor.

Taking away funding for liberal arts education means that we have no voice.

Taking away liberal arts education means creating silence.

Save liberal arts.

We need it now, more than ever.

Yours Sincerely & Truly,
Jessielyn Ho, % 2020



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Audrey Ho <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:51 PM

Reply-To: audryho@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Audrey Ho
Email audryho@hotmail.com
Phone Number (9167250903)
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Please do not do away with the arts and language programs at UH Manoa. (Former student)

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Audrey Ho

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Citrus Heights

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rudi Hoehn <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:37 AM

Reply-To: rph33@mac.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Rudi Hoehn
Email	rph33@mac.com
Phone Number	(808) 3757188
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Additional Comments Please keep the arts alive at UHM!!!

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These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of

these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Rudi Hoehn

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Tristan Holmes <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:46 PM

Reply-To: tristanh314@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Tristan Holmes
Email tristanh314@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 6791334
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I similarly oppose the elimination of the journalism and social work departments. These departments are vital for the infrastructure of the entire state of Hawaii and must be protected.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Tristan Holmes

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Portland

State / Province: OR

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UH Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance

Holt, Kathryn M. <holt.351@buckeyemail.osu.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:38 PM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: UHM Provost Michael Bruno <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "covid19@hawaii.edu" <covid19@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, CALL Dean Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, CALL Associate Dean Tom Brislin <tbrislin@hawaii.edu>, CALL Associate Dean Kimi Kondo-Brown <kondo@hawaii.edu>, T&D Chair Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, T&D Associate Chair of Dance Betsy Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, T&D Associate Chair of Theatre Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

My name is Kathryn Holt, and I am an alumna of the UH Manoa dance graduate program. I graduated with an MA in Dance with a focus in Culture and Performance Studies in spring 2014. I am extremely disappointed to learn of the university's short-sighted plans to potentially end degree programs in the Department of Theatre and Dance at UHM. My time completing the MA at UHM was an invaluable experience that prepared me to follow my current path of pursuing a PhD in Dance Studies at one of the top dance programs in the United States.

The UH Manoa Dance program is unique amongst the programs offered in the US. My choice to attend UH was largely due to the opportunity to study the culture and theory behind dance, but I gained so much from the experience that I did not expect. In the process of completing the program, I built my skills as a dancer, a choreographer, a scholar, and a director, while also making use of the opportunity to learn the various Asian and Pacific dance forms offered at UH. The faculty and courses offered within the program are valuable in and of themselves, but it is also the positioning of the program in Hawaii that shaped my experience and knowledge in a way I could not have experienced elsewhere. There are few, if any, dance programs that offer the opportunity to study Asian and Pacific dance forms and perspectives alongside the study of Western dance theory, education, and concert dance technique. This is one of the many reasons the UH Manoa dance program is unique and invaluable. To stop these degree programs would not only negatively affect the students and culture of Hawaii, but would also be a loss to the dance field as a whole since there is no other university in the country that can provide what UH Manoa provides.

Additionally, discontinuing the UH Manoa dance program would do a great disservice to the dancers and students of Hawaii by requiring them to travel to the mainland to continue their training and complete their degrees. This will undoubtedly drain Hawaii of talented artists and scholars for years to come, irreversibly harming the intellectual and cultural life of the islands. Every effort must be made to avoid this fate, because the repercussions of this choice will not be easily reversed. Budget cuts can be made in other places, but if this is the choice that is made, there is no telling how long it will take to repair the damage that is done.

In addition to my involvement in the courses and creative opportunities in the dance program, my experiences working with faculty, MA, MFA, and PhD students in the theatre program, and taking coursework in women's studies, broadened my knowledge and taught me a multitude of ways of thinking about my studies and the world. The education I took from my work across these departments, alongside my work in dance, prepared me to pursue a PhD and gave me a perspective that I consistently find is unique among my colleagues in academia. By completing my MA in this department, I learned to understand myriad culture perspectives and approaches to dance and theatre, and this has bolstered and informed my research and scholarship into the present. I would not be where I am today without the UH Manoa

Department of Theatre and Dance, and those who come after me deserve the same chance to learn from this superb department and faculty. I urge the university to reconsider and rescind these proposed cuts, and to recognize the significance of the dance programs in particularly to the cultural life of Hawaii and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Holt (she/her/hers)

PhD Candidate, Department of Dance

Global Arts and Humanities Graduate Team Fellow

Chair, Arts and Culture, Council of Graduate Students

The Ohio State University

holt.351@osu.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Do NOT "stop-out" the ES BA degree!

Sam Ikehara <sikehara@usc.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:18 PM

UH Regents,

My name is Sam Ikehara and I am a graduate of UH Mānoa. I am currently a PhD candidate at the University of Southern California. I'm writing to you today to urge you to NOT follow the Mānoa Budget Team's option to "stop out" the Ethnic Studies BA degree. How exactly would this lead to immediate savings? I'd like to see evidence for this statement.

As I'm sure others have already mentioned, the UH Mānoa Ethnic Studies department grew out of the national civil rights, anti-war and student movements and the Hawai'i anti-eviction, land, labor, and sovereignty movements. Its important legacy must be maintained at all costs and any attempts to eliminate the department is a form of institutional racism. California just recently passed a movement to REQUIRE ethnic studies education for all students. What kind of example is UH Mānoa setting by putting the Ethnic Studies department on track for dissolution? This is absolutely shameful.

I would not be where I am today without the Ethnic Studies curriculum at UHM. It was in those classes that I received the critical training I needed to become aware of the vast array of injustices that plague our society (this instance of budget cuts being one of them). One of the most valuable experiences of my education has been going on a demilitarization detour with UHM Ethnic Studies faculty. It has formed the basis of the work I do now at USC.

I will continue to be in touch about this matter until the university commits to keeping Ethnic Studies as an autonomous department.

Regards,
Sam Ikehara

--

Sam Ikehara
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of American Studies & Ethnicity
University of Southern California



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Simone Jacot-Bell <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:47 PM

Reply-To: simoneanasa@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Simone Jacot-Bell

Email simoneanasa@gmail.com

Phone Number (628) 2258287

Date 03-26-2000

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I strongly oppose cutting these programs.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Simone Jacot-Bell

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: San Francisco
State / Province: California
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Brianne Johnson <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:27 PM

Reply-To: bjrj@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Brianne Johnson

Email bjrj@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3669473

Date 09-06-1998

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

As a student at UH I have always appreciated the connection to culture and the arts. I might not be in these programs but the loss of them will diminish this connection that makes this university stand out from other places of learning.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Brianne Johnson

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ariana Kashimoto <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:25 PM

Reply-To: arianakk@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Ariana Kashimoto
Email arianakk@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 3491153
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

KEEP THE ARTS AT UH MANOA

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Ariana Kashimoto

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [95-1183 Anuanu St Mililani](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Koch Katherine <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:44 AM

Reply-To: kkoch@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Koch Katherine
 Email kkoch@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (908) 9173387
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments The arts play an important role with in our community and the world as a whole. Just one example is the amount of people that were watching shows/movies that involved either those who were part of dance and theater over quarantine.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

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Signature



Name:

Katherin Koch

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

John Kearns <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:23 AM

Reply-To: hiroshimawong@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name John Kearns
 Email hiroshimawong@gmail.com
 Phone Number (612) 2800072
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I have served as a provost before, and the current plan targets programs that can least afford cuts.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Name:

John Kearns

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [5520 Richmond Curve, Minneapolis](#)

State / Province: MN

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Keny S <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:35 PM

Reply-To: kenysemail@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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Email kenysemail@gmail.com
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

As both an artist and a scholar who is also partaking in this MFA journey, although at a different institution, I cannot stress how much Dance, theatre, and other forms of artistic expression are imperative to the socio-political climate we are currently in. This measure demonstrates the erroneous perception of artistic modes as frivolous, when in turn they are creations of embodied theoretical frameworks that are strong critical tools needed in order to confront the multiple oppressive systems that afflict all

of us today. To do away with such programs is to side with the oppressor, to limit creation, thought, and creation as thought. It is to silence the cultural makers that are reconstructing our world today.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Keny S

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Chicago

State / Province: Illinois

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UH Board of Regents

Nadia Kim <nyk888@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:18 PM

Dear Board of Regents,

I write to denounce your recent decision to "stop out" the Ethnic Studies BA at UH Manoa, as right now more than ever, not only do we need to keep the BA, but we need to extend it. With a White supremacist President, the world moving to the right, especially on racialized injustices, the military occupation of Hawaii, environmental racism against native Hawaiians, anti-Black racism on the island and in the continental US, Kung Flu racism against Asian Americans, the caging of Latinx children/families, the Muslim Ban, the country's current political revolution for racial justice and against police and prison racism, the major momentum for required Ethnic Studies curricula in high schools, and the like, not only will students be taking ES classes, but they will be pursuing social movement activity, graduate studies, and careers that flow from an Ethnic Studies degree. Even if covid-19 has caused a budget crisis, salaries of the many strata of administrators should be cut, not disciplines that are the cornerstone of society, liberal arts, and understanding Hawaii itself. As there is always a way, find a way to maintain the ES degree past the pandemic, as UH will massively regret getting rid of it when students need it most.

Thanks,

Nadia Kim

--

Nadia Y. Kim

Professor

Sociology, Loyola Marymount Univ. Uhall 4315

(e-mail) nkim1@lmu.edu (nyk888@gmail.com preferred); (tel) (310) 338-2810

(web) www.nadiakimacademic.net

*Author of award-winning *Imperial Citizens*

*And author of forthcoming: [*Refusing Death: Immigrant Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice in LA \(Stanford, June 2021\)*](#)



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kayla Kimura <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:23 AM

Reply-To: k12kakimu@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezz@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Kayla Kimura
 Email k12kakimu@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 5426939
 Date 08-09-1994
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Additional Comments Dance is more than just a major at a college, it is a part of a person. Our youth needs to be able to mold and perpetuate this language of emotions and being. Don't take away our futures ability to speak.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

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Signature



Name:

Kayla Kimura

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [1741 Waiola St](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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Email	k12kakimu@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 5426939
Date	08-09-1994
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

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The Board of Regents
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Signature



Name:

Kayla Kimura

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [1741 Waiola St](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Lindsay Kosasa <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:15 PM

Reply-To: lindsay.kosasa@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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Name Lindsay Kosasa
Email lindsay.kosasa@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 7412154
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

In my time as a HIDOE high school dance educator, my students have already seen performing arts eliminated from academy pathways. To see it eliminated from UH would further solidify the defunding of valuable performing arts programs in K-12 education.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Lindsay Kosasa

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: [1634 Makiki St Apt 1004](#)

State / Province: Honolulu, HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Lisa Kramer <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:49 AM

Reply-To: lisaakramer@lisaakramer.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Lisa Kramer
 Email lisaakramer@lisaakramer.com
 Phone Number (970) 946-4851
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
 Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I am truly appalled that you are even considering cutting this program, along with others like sociology. To do this completely ignores the value of a liberal arts education. It also ignores the reality of the times we are in, where we need more programs that teach empathy, collaboration, people skills, and the ability to recognize the things that connect us all. This ignores the fact that more employers

are looking for people with the so-called "soft skills) that are taught in programs which ask people to think creatively and find solutions from different perspectives. This decision also ignores the fact that UHM has a prestigious reputation in Asian Theatre, Puppetry, etc. You have many graduates, myself included, who have gone on to work in the arts on a variety of levels. Finally, to cut programs like this shows a complete disregard for what makes Hawaii special, a recognition in the value of diversity, culture, and living life with eyes open to creativity and the beauty of the world.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature



Name:

Lisa Kramer

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Auburn

State / Province: MA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Linda Kuo <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:00 AM

Reply-To: linda@dunyc-hi.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Linda Kuo
 Email linda@dunyc-hi.com
 Phone Number (808) 8889858
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Additional Comments I currently live and work on the mainland as a Director of my own dance company. While I was searching for an MFA program that would fit in my criteria for cultural diversity and authenticity, UHM Dance was recommended to me by everyone I spoke to in the dance field from NY to Los Angeles and Asia.

I have been in the process of getting ready to applying to the Dance program at UHM. For a program that is highly regarded in the international dance community, it would be a shame to lose it. UHM Dance represents what every dance program in universities should look like in its commitment in studying dance and dance-making through a culturally diverse and inclusive lens.

More importantly, we need dance. Dance is ingrained in humanity. There isn't a single culture that doesn't dance. During a global pandemic, social unrest and economic recession, it is our responsibility as educators and creatives to be rooted in our humanity, and remind each other why the arts matter- Why we as the human collective matter.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Linda Kuo

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: 199 Opossum Road
State / Province: NJ
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Crystal Kwok <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:39 PM

Reply-To: kwok3@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Crystal Kwok
Email kwok3@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 425-2650
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

As a PhD student in Theater, there is a "guarantee" that I will be able to complete my degree. But it is not about the degree. It is about the process and the enrichment that comes on this path. A degree is but a hollow gesture of what is gained. If anything, it is the remnants of a corpse, of something that might have been formidable if its life force was not so abruptly and unjustly terminated.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Crystal Kwok

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

State / Province: Honolulu, HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Leinani Lacio <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:32 PM

Reply-To: soccergirl75@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Leinani Lacio
Email	soccergirl75@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 5177997
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

I believe not only is it wrong to shut down a program that hundreds of students have devoted their lives to, but it is morally wrong. These students have gone into debt and have put countless hours into training to perfect their craft under these programs and it is horrifying to see UH Manoa take that from them with no remorse. Have more aloha and take care of the children because these people

are the future of the island. By doing this you are only aiding in a future that lacks diversity and understanding to students looking for a future in these programs.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Leinani Lacio

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [2433 kuahea dt](#)
State / Province: Honolulu
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UH Dance Department

Minou Lallemand <minlall589@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:57 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu

Dear Dr. Lassner,

The elimination of the dance department would be such a great loss to the arts and dance community at large in Hawaii. It is the only program of it's kind in Hawaii. Any Hawaii student wishing to pursue a degree in dance would have to leave the state which would leave Hawaii with a dearth of talent. It's not just at the university; UHM dance students are crucial to the dance community. I am a former UH dance faculty as well as the former artistic director of a dance school in Honolulu and over half my staff including my co-director were UHM graduates. They are a primary source for talent on the islands. In addition, it is the only program with heavy concentration on Asia-Pacific dance forms that you can't find anywhere else. Why are the arts always the first to get cut? The arts are SO important to society. The arts open your mind and make you think and isn't that the whole purpose of a university? Please, please do not let this important program fade away.

Sincerely,

Minou Lallemand

UHM Dance faculty 2104-2019



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Christine Lamborn <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:32 PM

Reply-To: lambornc@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Christine Lamborn

Email lambornc@gmail.com

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments: As an alum who received my degree from the Theatre + Dance department, the drastic proposed cuts are appalling. I have yet to see any information about how much these cuts will actually save the university money.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Christine Lamborn

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Stop Targeting Ethnic Studies

Charles Lawrence, III <crl3@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:48 PM

I write to express my strongest opposition to the Manoa Budget Team's recommendation to "stop out" the Ethnic Studies Department and offer Ethnic Studies as a concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies. I am a Law Professor and Constitutional Scholar. For over fifty years I have taught and written in the field of equal protection, anti-discrimination law, civil rights and Critical race theory. For the past twelve years I have been a member of the UH Manoa faculty. The Ethnic Studies department is unique and critically important to UH and has been an especially important resource for my own work and for that of many law students who are working to understand the importance of racism in the history and structure of the United States and the state of Hawaii.

It is more than sad irony, indeed it is misguided and wrong, that at this moment in history when the entire nation has been made aware of the consequences of the deep racial inequality and divisions in our society, that this university should choose to eliminate the department whose mission is to produce knowledge and teach future leaders and citizens the importance of finally reconciling this nation's ideals with its practices. In this moment of national racial reckoning, to target Ethnic Studies under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Lawrence III
Professor of Law, Emeritus



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ruth Faioso Leau <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Reply-To: rleau@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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Name Ruth Faioso Leau

Email rleau@hawaii.edu

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
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The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

What has made me an excellent Zoom training coordinator in public health has actual been the application of production and performance skills I learned through music and dance classes at UH. I learned cultural competency by studying "ethnic" dance classes at UH that I did not learn anywhere else. Furthermore, I learned about my responsibility in civics and advocacy through dance.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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Signature



Name:

Ruth Faioso Leau

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nathan Lee <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:30 AM

Reply-To: nlee010@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Nathan Lee
Email	nlee010@gmail.com
Phone Number	(970) 9465397
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	As an alumni it saddens me to have a program so vital to the fostering of island culture be considered for this.
---------------------	--

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Nathan Lee

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Auburn

State / Province: MA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Katie Leiva <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:10 PM

Reply-To: katie.leiva@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Katie Leiva
Email	katie.leiva@gmail.com
Phone Number	(703) 9730940
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

The arts community in Hawaii is stronger than anywhere I've ever seen and its foundation is in education. I spent 8 years living, working, studying and performing on Oahu, and served on the Hawaii State Theatre Council for 2 of those years. I won Po'okela awards and volunteered my time in community theatre. I met many UH Manoa grads and professors, who are active in the community and

generous with their students. I worked with more people who had worked on Broadway and films in the Hawaii theatre community than I ever did on the east or west coasts of the mainland! The talent is astounding and it needs support and cultivation through education. It would be a crime to take away this most valuable island resource.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

M Katie Leiva

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [400 Hunt St Unit 205](#)

State / Province: Durham, NC 27701

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

anton levin <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Reply-To: anlevin@s.sfusd.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name anton levin
Email anlevin@s.sfusd.edu
Phone Number (94121) 14159365338
Date 12-31-2003
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

You guys are inspirational and i really joel i get a chance to work with y'all

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Anton Levin

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: San Francisco

State / Province: California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Denali Lukacinsky <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:39 PM

Reply-To: denali_l@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Denali Lukacinsky

Email denali_l@yahoo.com

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

As an Alumnus of UHM with degrees from the Psychology and Women's Studies departments, I found my participation in the Theatre and Dance program to be enriching. Not only did it help me to focus on my health and wellness during my time at UH, it introduced me to cultural perspectives I would not have otherwise encountered. If the university aims to produce well rounded compassionate community members cutting this degree program will have the opposite effect. Additionally,

as an individual considering various JD programs nation wide the removal of this program will remove William Richardson Law School from consideration.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Denali Lukacinsky

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Anchorage

State / Province: AK

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

LynleyShimat Lys <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:42 AM

Reply-To: llys@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name LynleyShimat Lys
 Email llys@hawaii.edu
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Additional Comments Austerity is not a good policy.

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9/15/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks,
in an ongoing conversation with the community you have
been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

LynleyShimat Lys

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Juliette Machado <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:27 AM

Reply-To: juliette.machado@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Juliette Machado
 Email juliette.machado@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 3510310
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
 Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments I grew up in Hawaii, but went to college on the mainland to pursue my BFA in dance. Now I am adjunct dance faculty at a community college in Bellingham, WA and firmly believe in the value of college visual and performing arts programs.

Dance should be prioritized at UH for its cultivation of

community, embodied creativity and healing, vulnerability, and cultural understanding. We need these social and emotional tools now more than ever.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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Signature



Name:

Juliette Machado

Address

City: [5000 Noon Road](#)

State / Province: Bellingham, WA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Teresa Madden <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:46 AM

Reply-To: terri_madden@playbuilders.org

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Teresa Madden
 Email terri_madden@playbuilders.org
 Phone Number (808) 2180103
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments I graduated with my masters of fine arts and theater in 2010. Since then I Found it a Community based theater company here in Hawaii called PlayBuilders. Our focus is to gather and share real stories that resonate with, empower, and connect the many culturally rich and diverse communities here in Hawaii. We have worked with homeless, former foster youth, and gender violence

survivors. Right now we are working on a project called bursting bubbles with domestic abuse survivors. We have worked with many marginalized people and have collaborated with such organizations as Catholic Charities Hawaii, the foster care training committee, and now the Hawaii state coalition against domestic violence. I know for a fact that we have made a tremendous difference to the lives of many people here. Two people have told us that we have saved their lives. Art and theater is necessary for public health. It is important that those people who are talented in those areas are given the education and support necessary to keep the arts alive in our society.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Teresa Madden

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [807 Kaluanui Rd](#)
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kira Magnudon <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:10 AM

Reply-To: kiramag@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Kira Magnudon
Email	kiramag@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3978299
Date	09-14-2000
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments	Dance is very important and gives a lot of opportunities, I think restricting to only minors inhibits a lot of the learning.
---------------------	--

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Kira Magnuson

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Pearl City
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Eugene Marquez <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:25 AM

Reply-To: etunac@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Eugene Marquez
 Email etunac@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 7825371
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Additional Comments I am appalled, but not surprised, by your decision to continue muting the voices of the people and cutting these programs will only be a part of the many evidence that expose your agenda. Stop using the pandemic as your reasonings in planning to dissolve these programs and tell us your real reasons why. Why are you damaging

the strength of programs who are crucially important to the social and cultural growth of the students?

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Name:

Eugene Marquez

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Charles Martin <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:07 AM

Reply-To: chuckenos545@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Charles Martin
 Email chuckenos545@gmail.com
 Phone Number (503) 4752723
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments The Drama and Theatre program has given the people of Hawaii introductions to Theatre from around the world and in many cases spread that education to the rest of the world. Students from the program have gone on to teach, perform and work in all aspects of Drama and Theatre around the Hawaiian Islands, around the US and around the world. Former performers and teachers from

around the world have taught and lectured here with a large contingent from Asia and Australia, etc. Sir Terrance Knapp and Glenn Cannon are just two examples. Former students have gone on into movies, television including Bette Midler, Georgina Engels and several into the Muppet Show and Sesame Street.

The study of Drama and Theatre also requires a wide knowledge of human history, philosophy and cultures including art, engineering, science, styles, construction, Movement, dance, music and all aspects of design. Students increase their senses of humanity, culture and empathy by their participation in both classes and productions.

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Signature



Name:

Charles E. Martin

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Brightwood
State / Province: Oregon
Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Monica Victoria Martinez <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:20 PM

Reply-To: mvl8@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Monica Victoria Martinez
Email mvl8@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 492-4918
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

As a student majoring in the health sciences, taking fun classes within the theatre department has allowed me to learn more about myself and become more comfortable in expressing who I am. Students including myself take these courses that give us the experience that we will not forget and will only truly experience here in Manoa. UH Manoa is a wonderful campus that stands out from the

many universities in the entire world. I believe that our dance and theatre programs are rich and unique as it impacts the students and community. It connects students to each other and exposes them to the melting pot of culture Hawaii has despite such a small place. In future, I have also thought of taking more theatre courses and hopefully one dance course so that i keep learning new and fun skills in life.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Monica Victoria Martinez

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Ewa Beach
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Elisabeth Mather <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:21 AM

Reply-To: elisabethkurashige@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Elisabeth Mather
 Email elisabethkurashige@gmail.com
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments

As a member of Oahu's arts community, I am deeply concerned about the proposed cuts to the arts at UH Manoa. Theater and dance play a crucial role in perpetuating the stories of our vibrant community, imbuing our lives with hope, and raising up creative leaders. On an island that is so isolated from the rest of the world, the university plays a unique leadership role in connecting artists on Oahu to the rest of our global community. In the

midst of global crisis, our island needs the arts more than ever. Please reconsider.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

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Signature



Name:

Elisabeth Mather

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



Ethnic Studies Program, UHM

Jon Matsuoka <jon_matsuoka@yahoo.com>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:01 PM

Dear Board of Regents,

Attached is my written testimony on my support for the continuation of the Ethnic Studies Baccalaureate Degree Program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Mahalo,

Jon K. Matsuoka



Ethnic Studies Support Letter, 9-14-20.docx
145K

September 14, 2020

To: Board of Regents, University of Hawai`i at Manoa

From: Jon K. Matsuoka, Vice Chancellor, Hawai`i Tokai International College

Per: Ethnic Studies Baccalaureate Degree

I am writing in support of maintaining the Ethnic Studies BA program at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. Having been a faculty member and Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at UHM I understand the true value of such a program. If there is a university in the United States and world that offers such a program, it is UHM. Given Hawai`i's rich and complicated social history pertaining to pre-contact indigenous culture and society, colonization, immigration and plantation economy, and ultimate empowerment of ethnic minorities, it is incumbent upon Hawai`i's flagship academy to continue to promote this stream of knowledge through a degree offering.

As an administrator in a related field, it is important to note that those graduating from Ethnic Studies gravitate towards applied graduate programs like social work, education, and public health to name a few. Thus, it is a feeder program to a multitude of advanced degreed professional programs. I personally know that Ethnic Studies graduates arrive well prepared with critical thinking abilities, political savvy, and a deep moral bent towards social justice and passion for serving marginalized communities. Without a concentrated learning opportunity and mentoring experience that comes from a degree program, student's knowledge would likely be tenuous and ungrounded. Graduate programs are generally more focused and intense and thus critical understandings of subjugation, diversity, and ethnic/race relations that are basic features of contemporary society would be lost in the matriculation process. Hawai`i is one of the few places in the world where social development and success are predicated on ethnic diversity. Unlike other societies, Hawai`i's social evolution was driven less by assimilation and conformity to a monolithic system than by the melding and sharing of cultural attributes grounded by the first culture of Hawai`i. Such transformation engendered boundless innovation and social creativity reflected in language, food, artistic expression, and forms of conciliation. Hawai`i is an example of what can happen when disparate cultures

are bound together, merge and evolve by precepts of aloha. Albeit far from perfect, this emergent culture spawned a unique brand of humanitarianism, sense of place and connection to land, and deep appreciation of human variations across latitudes. As societies around the world contract and diversify, Hawai`i offers a template for parity, peaceful coexistence and blend, and the actualization of human potential.

Given the tumult in American and global society there has never been a more important time to educate the next generation on these matters. Mahalo for your time and consideration.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jacelyn Mendiha <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:00 AM

Reply-To: jacelynm@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Jacelyn Mendiha
Email	jacelynm@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3714278
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	Cutting degree programs and funding to a multitude of majors should NOT be the first solution to think about when looking at the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ask yourselves this: is money really more important than the student-body of UH Mānoa? Students and staff have already struggling since March. It is your responsibility to
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seek to help out the UH Mānoa community. There are better, more cost-effective solutions to this.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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Signature



Name:

Jacelyn Mendiha

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [1362 Hoowali St Unit B](#)

State / Province: Pearl City, Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nanette Miles <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:27 PM

Reply-To: nmiles@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Nanette Miles
Email	nmiles@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 7531977
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

The University of Hawaii at Manoa sits on Crown lands that were granted by the Hawaiian Monarchy AND is an indigenous & underrepresented serving PUBLIC institution. Did you forget these humble roots of this flagship institution? How can you justify eliminating Theatre & Dance, especially dance when it is an important cultural connection to Hawaiian culture?

Manoa as a Hawaiian place of learning is a marketing tool in name only. It is a nice way to perpetuate the 'Hawaiian' aspect of this location, but does nothing to serve the public of Hawaii nor perpetuate the vision of our Hawaiian ancestors. Shame on you Lassner!! If the bottom line is the main issue, may I suggest you take a good, hard, shrewd look at upper administration & cut the top heavy, high paid administrators. Because this is what Manoa is known for and needs to change.

In addition...the proposed dissolution of Ethnic Studies & Womens Studies speaks to those in power...further colonialism rhetoric that discounts ethnic diversity & women's voices.

You have got to do better for Hawaii and its people. My heart is breaking and disappointed with these proposed cuts. As an indigenous person of color, these proposals are unacceptable and should not be approved.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Nanette Miles

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: PO Box 11982

State / Province: Honolulu, Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

June Misaki <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:20 PM

Reply-To: jhmhmisaki@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	June Misaki
Email	jhmhmisaki@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(808) 3866400
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

This is crazy. This is ludicrous. This is not the right thing to do.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

June Misaki

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1308A Hookano St, Pearl City](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Zackary Miyamoto <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:09 PM

Reply-To: zekm@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Zackary Miyamoto
Email zekm@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 6792354
Date 09-14-1999
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

Theatre and dance is an important form of creative expression and is a valid area of expertise that should be offered as an option for undergraduate students who are determining possible career paths.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Zackary Miyamoto

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Pearl Cuty

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Gail Miyao <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:46 PM

Reply-To: gmiyao@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Gail Miyao
Email	gmiyao@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 7726086
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
 Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

As a community supporter of UH Arts program I strongly urged you to reconsider cutting the Theatre and Dance programs. The arts benefit the community as whole. I have enjoyed plays at Kennedy Theatre over the years. I've also had the opportunity to meet drama students and alumni. It is a fine program that gives our children the

opportunity to pursue careers here in Hawaii as opposed to the mainland.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Gail Miyao

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Camille Monson <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:13 PM

Reply-To: monson4@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Camille Monson

Email monson4@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (951) 440-8316

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I am a recent MFA graduate in dance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I teach performing arts courses in the College of Education. I was extremely saddened to read about the proposed cuts to the dance department. How can an educational institution propose a pathway that is void of dance? While I understand there is financial pressure to cut funds by removing the dance

degrees, I urge you to resist putting fiscal priority and frameworks over the physical body. These neoliberal notions that put monetary needs over the health of arts, education and specifically, dance, will not improve the University of Hawaii and the greater community.

In a time of social, racial, political, and economic unrest, racial injustices being confronted, and a global pandemic, I will bring my voice with others and plead with you that you do not take away some of the very programs that bring healing, awareness, empathy, newness in thought and ways of being, and communication that are unique to dance.

The study of dance includes the study of the whole individual, their response to the world, and their vision of a better world. I urge you to resist silencing these powerful movement and body practitioner voices. Consider a new way. See a way beyond fiscal persuasion. Be on the side of humanity. Do not take away the healing form of dance, its wisdom, and its place at UH Manoa.

The UH Dance program is a powerful and diverse program that offers courses that many universities do not. Dance brings life to education and I see this daily when I teach my students in the performing arts. Dance brings a way of learning and being that also strengthens other curricular areas.

I will share my final request again:

Consider a new way. See a way beyond fiscal persuasion. Be on the side of humanity. Do not take away the healing form of dance, its wisdom, and its place at UH Manoa.

With hope,
Camille Monson MFA, Dance, UH Manoa

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Camille Monson

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kylee Munro <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:04 PM

Reply-To: kyleejmunro@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Kylee Munro
Email	kyleejmunro@gmail.com
Phone Number	(978) 8355463
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

Cutting funding to the arts, again, is disgraceful. I understand that times are hard and changes need to be made. I simply think that it is outrageous to continue to hack away at programs that are underfunded and under appreciated while continuing to spend over two million dollars a year on the coaching staff of the football team. And that's just staff. That doesn't include the travel to

away games or academic support for all of the classes missed. Or uniforms. I get it. I was a student athlete myself. I know that alumni and spectator support help pay for these things. But if you're telling me that you have to cut entire departments from your university, I think you could try to look for money in places where the spending is outrageous. I know how much is given to the arts. It's nothing like the \$2,144,208 that was given to the football staff in 2016.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your

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It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Kylee Munro

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Suzen Kukana Murakoshi <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:47 PM

Reply-To: roxysuzen@yahoo.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Suzen Kukana Murakoshi

Email roxysuzen@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 2256129

Date 09-15-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I am a UHM Theatre BA Alumni. It's because of this degree that I was able to dance in two Broadway shows in NY. Devoting my life to the theatre, I further received an MFA from the New School in NYC in playwriting and acting. THEATRE is VITAL to the health of the community.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks,

however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Kukana Murakoshi

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Aiea

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jacqueline Shea Murphy <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:32 PM

Reply-To: jshea@ucr.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jacqueline Shea Murphy
Email jshea@ucr.edu
Phone Number (323) 428-9934
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

I am a professor in the dance department at the University of California, Riverside, and find this approach deeply shortsighted and wrong. The knowledge held and generated in dance, the community generated in dance practices, the ways of being in relation to place that dance requires, are all invaluable to the world we are in and the worlds we want to live in.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jacqueline Shea Murphy

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Oakland

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Colleen Murphy <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Reply-To: cmurphy@bgsu.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislil@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Colleen Murphy

Email cmurphy@bgsu.edu

Phone Number (419) 2901952

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments: As a UHM Dance alumna, I am heartbroken to hear of the possible elimination of the Dance program.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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Signature



Name:

Colleen Murphy

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Bowling Green
State / Province: Ohio
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Melissa Mychalczuk <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:06 PM

Reply-To: mel.mych@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Melissa Mychalczuk
Email mel.mych@gmail.com
Phone Number (908) 4007144
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Thank you.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Melissa Mychalczuk

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [Scotch Plains](#)

State / Province: [NJ](#)

Country: [United States](#)

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jaleleh Nazzal <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:17 PM

Reply-To: jalelehnaz1@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name: Jaleleh Nazzal
Email: jalelehnaz1@gmail.com
Date: 11-22-1998
Letter Heading: To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments: Losing such important classes that are meant to support diversity, understanding, and open mindedness will only take away from the children of our future, who need to be united. We all must be united during these trying times. The classes you deem unneeded are classes young women and BIPOC who are looking to learn about and express themselves NEED more than ever. Be better.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jaleleh Nazzal

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [9 Locksley Ave](#)

State / Province: SF

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nathaniel Niemi <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:27 PM

Reply-To: nathanielsethniemi@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Nathaniel Niemi
Email nathanielsethniemi@gmail.com
Phone Number (903) 3531303
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

These departments have been invaluable in my development as an artist and career.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Nathaniel Niemi

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1023 Mellathon Circle, Leesburg](#)

State / Province: Florida

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Amy Noble <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:46 PM

Reply-To: missamynoble@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Amy Noble
Email missamynoble@gmail.com
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments: Let them dance!!!!!!!

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Amy Noble

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Fort Collins

State / Province: CO

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Cheska Nicole Nunag <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:47 PM

Reply-To: cnunag@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Cheska Nicole Nunag
Email	cnunag@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3040133
Date	08-26-2001
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments:

To all whom it may concern,

Please, I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision. The arts and performing programs at UH are one of the most vital programs here. Cutting their fundint would cause these programs to suffer and it would not let them flourish as they should. These programs provide a

community for those with creative endeavors and encourages them to grow and succeed. These programs are important in keeping those success alive.

Thank you for your time

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Cheska Nicole Nunag

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [99-043 Laulima St. Apt. A Aiea](#)

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Casey Rebecca Nunes <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:16 AM

Reply-To: casey.nunes@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzis@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Casey Rebecca Nunes
 Email casey.nunes@gmail.com
 Phone Number (607) 3397828
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments If you cut Theatre, you cut out the heart of my entire experience at UH. I probably wouldn't have enjoyed or learned much from my time there without it. Furthermore, the bonds and network I have built and maintained via UH Theatre have lasted me years beyond my time in Hawai'i. Please do not do this.

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the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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Signature



Name:

Casey Rebecca Nunes

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: San Francisco

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Harper Okamoto <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:44 AM

Reply-To: okamotoh@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Harper Okamoto
Email	okamotoh@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 7988395
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments As a member of the dance community here in Hawaii, I place so much value in the arts. It is something so integral to our societal development and I believe your proposal would hurt us more than help us. Please reconsider.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Harper Okamoto

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Pearl City
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Seth Okumura <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:12 PM

Reply-To: sethokumura@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Seth Okumura
Email sethokumura@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 3484228
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Theatre makes up so much of my life, and the shows that I've seen at UH have been incredible. Please don't cut funding, I find that most theatres struggle a bit as it is, especially nowadays with the whole virus situation.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Seth Okumura

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony for BOR 9/16 meeting : I Oppose the proposed option to stop-out Ethnic Studies BA program

Ashley Olguin <ashley.olguin@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:10 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing as a Graduate student, alumni and Hawaii resident to inform the board of regents that the proposed action to "stop out" of ES is unacceptable and **must be rejected now**. The proposed "stop out" of ES ignores and demeans the legacies of Hawai'i's multi-ethnic peoples that our department continues to uphold and pass on to new generations of students. In our ethnically diverse state, that an option to "stop-out" ES is even being considered is tone-deaf to this moment of national racial reckoning. Targeting Ethnic Studies under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism.

I Ask the Mānoa Budget Team to provide evidence on how the option to "stop-out" ES will result in immediate projected savings. And with that **Demand** that the administration stop targeting Ethnic Studies and immediately withdraw the option to "stop-out" ES. I will also **Point out** that even the option for a "stop-out" at this point can trigger a decrease in majors, weaken ES and provide no short-term cost savings for the university. We must stop this act of institutional racism.

I Nalani Olguin oppose the proposed option to stop-out the Ethnic Studies BA program.

Mahalo nui for you time,
Nalani Olguin



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Hikari Omuro <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:02 PM

Reply-To: omurojon@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name: Hikari Omuro
Email: omurojon@gmail.com
Phone Number: (808) 9909015
Date: 04-21-1994
Letter Heading: To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

As a proud alumni of UH Manoa who is successfully building a career in the nonprofit sector with a degree in humanities (English), I strongly oppose the viewpoint of any degree as less valuable than others. It is shameful for university admin to cut departments when they themselves continue to reap their financial benefits.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Hikari Omuro

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 1036 Green St
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jessica Orfe <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:28 PM

Reply-To: jessicaorfe@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jessica Orfe
Email jessicaorfe@gmail.com
Phone Number (630) 4602422
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

Aloha e President David Lassner, Administrators, and To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the cutting of programs:

I am writing in as an alumnus of the university.

While I was earning my Masters in Visual Art at UHManoa, I took a few dance classes and also danced with a student RSO. I have since been involved in several creative projects with dancers in the community, also with the university, as dance has been part of my life for nearly a lifetime in some extent. I consider myself lucky to have met some amazing individuals through the dance community at UH and consider dance to be not only one of those enriching aspects of life but in many ways an essential part of human experience. I would like to express my concern over the potential cutting of the Dance & Theatre program and urge you to consider another method of budgeting the fiscal year that would sustain the diverse and enriching degree programs the college offers rather than do away with (any of) them. In particular, the Arts tend to suffer in situations like these; I express my support for the continuation of Dance & Theatre Program.

The Dance and Theatre program at UHManoa serves as a nexus for cultural exchange within the arts, centrally located as it is in the middle of the Pacific. Other dance programs on the mainland cannot boast the authentic diversity of art forms accessible here at the Manoa campus.

Last summer, I participated in the 2019 Asia Pacific Dance Festival – a co-sponsored production of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Outreach College and East-West Center Arts Program. The theme was “Ho’ala – To Waken.” The international conference brought together NEA recipients, Native American speakers, and scholars from Canada, Taiwan, New Zealand, The Philippines, Japan, China, and mainland USA as well as Hawaii. The 2 guest dance companies that led the intensive, ASK Dance Company, Dancers of Damelahamid, were wonderful performers & teachers.

They shared insight into dance forms that are the equivalent of rare and endangered species requiring extra conservation efforts for their prolongation. In the event’s brochure, David Lassner’s bio shares that “he is also advancing UH’s commitments to sustainability and becoming a model indigenous-serving university.” Dance represents Culture and Identity. Think of Hula, which demonstrates the cultural significance of dance: thanks to dedicated cultural practitioners and scholars we have been able to witness both the departure from ancient traditions and well as the resurgence & restoration of the art form. Let the student body & community hold onto that statement of commitment in hopes that UH Manoa can sustain the valuable degree programs it offers.

This year has been thus far an incredibly trying and difficult year globally and on island, and financially speaking many businesses, organizations, institutions and individuals are suffering. This does not need to be the hallmark year of all bad decisions, however. The Arts are an enriching AND essential field of study that deserves to exist, supported by the University.

UHManoa was founded in 1907 as a land-grant college of agriculture and mechanical arts. Today, as a public research university, it functions somewhat as a body does, parts interdependent and cross-fertilizing, although this may not always be fiscally apparent. If you decide to

diet, no one will advise you to chop off a limb or remove musculature, or internal organs. Important (& invaluable) fields of study may ironically not be receiving adequate funding or generating sufficient (revenue?) which is not necessarily a valid reason to eliminate them. We are truly at a critical time within history where social and political structures are going haywire; My concern is for academia, and for the loss of specializations, knowledge, culture. Budget, yes, amputate, no.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Jessica Orfe

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Adelene Ortiz <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:42 PM

Reply-To: adelene@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Adelene Ortiz
Email adelene@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 2772110
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

I am not a theatre major, and the theatre classes that I've taken have been one of my favorite classes I've taken at UH Manoa. They are so enjoyable and fun, but at the same time very educational. It would be a shame to see these classes taken away because they were truly a fun way to learn.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Adelene Ortiz

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [1234 Alexander St. Apt. 107](#)

State / Province: Honolulu, HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Nanilisa Pascua <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:01 PM

Reply-To: nanimarie@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Nanilisa Pascua

Email nanimarie@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3890515

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Way back, I started out as a theatre major at UHM, and eventually moved over to the music department for which I was better suited. I never lost my love for the performing arts and have been a musical theatre specialist and educator throughout the years. My time in the theatre and dance department was especially

formative to my artistic upbringing. Please do not cut the Program.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Nanilisa Pascua

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [99-647 Ulune St.](#)

State / Province: Aiea, HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Heidi Pearce <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:31 PM

Reply-To: hadgade@icloud.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Heidi Pearce
Email	hadgade@icloud.com
Phone Number	(208) 2778732
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

My daughter is an MFA student at UH. This is a devastating proposal.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

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Signature



Name:

Heidi Pearse

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Post Falls
State / Province: Idaho
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Migdalia Pensado <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:29 PM

Reply-To: mtpensado746@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Migdalia Pensado
Email mtpensado746@gmail.com
Phone Number (503) 6073796
Date 10-10-1999
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments: Cutting funding from these programs is atrocious! Cut funding from the sports teams instead of the arts programs at school.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

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Signature



Name:

Migdalia Pensado

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: 10380 SW Pueblo Street

State / Province: OR

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Maryann Peterson <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:44 AM

Reply-To: maryannpeterson@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Maryann Peterson
Email	maryannpeterson@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2810719
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Additional Comments	To Whom It May Concern:
---------------------	-------------------------

My name is Maryann Peterson and I am a proud alum of the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2007 with a BFA in Dance Theatre.

I whole-heartedly disagree with your plan to cut programs

due to stagnant enrollment. As a student of both Dance and Theatre departments, I learned a great deal about myself, including but not limited to work ethic, teamwork and how to be successful.

The UH Manoa Dance Department gave me so much. When I think back on my life, I would not change my decision to attend UH Manoa. Professors like Gregg Lizenbery, Betsy Fisher, Peggy Gaither Adams and many, many more made a profound impact on my life. As a student in the Dance Department, I made life long friendships, many of whom I am in close contact with today. My life would not be the same without any of these people.

Please do not take away these departments from future students who are ready and willing to learn and take on their roles in life and society.

Thank you for your time,

Maryann Peterson

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Maryann Peterson

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Forest Hills
State / Province: NY
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Gabby Pfeiffer <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:18 PM

Reply-To: gabriellekpfeiffer@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Gabby Pfeiffer
Email gabriellekpfeiffer@gmail.com
Phone Number (208) 6512990
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

Dance is the heart and soul of a culture.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Gabby Pfeiffer

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [2644 Marceille Dr](#)
State / Province: [Idaho](#)
Country: [United States](#)

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

letter of support for the Dance Department

Amy Pivar <amypivar@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:35 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, Julie lezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Attached letter:

September 14, 2020

From: Amy Pivar, MA CAPS Dance candidate at UHM

amypivar@hawaii.edu

my phone: 917 324-8100

Dear University of Hawai'i at Manoa,

I am a graduate student in the Dance Department. I am distressed upon learning of proposals to eliminate the Dance Major in all degree levels. I understand the dire gravity of the economic situation globally, nationally and statewide. I understand that there are difficult decisions to be made that will impact many people. During this era of Covid, racial and economic crisis, it is my opinion that to make a radical cut like this is devastating, not only to the direct people involved, but the future of this state, as well as far-reaching global communities.

I have been a working dance professional in the New York City dance world since the late 1970's and have watched the growth of this precious art form over the decades. Dance has proved itself to be a worthy area of study in a University setting, not only in conservatory capacity of rigorous training and scholarly research and the growing global conversations in the dance world, but also in physical mental and emotional therapeutic applications. The University of Hawai'i is a wonderful and exceptional place for a higher level dance education. Every single one of the dance educators here are exceptional. It would be a tragedy to cut off their contributions to the state of Hawai'i, to our country and to the global community.

The particular setting of Hawai'i fosters a unique expansion of practice rooted in the culture and nature found nowhere else in the US. It is also unique in the offerings of Asian dance and has played a vital role in the ongoing effort to uphold this area of dance that so many other Universities neglect entirely. As well, there is fertile ground for the importance of evolution and investigation into these forms that only UHM can offer.

Dance has come so far in its hard-won rightful place in higher learning. I strongly believe that dismantling forty years of sweat and blood effort to breathe life into an oldest and most humane and fundamental art form would have a devastating impact in Hawai'i in life. This is true for the richness of culture and it is especially true for the many young women who find an empowered voice through their work in dance.

The Arts need the unwavering support from humanistic institutions of higher learning. Dance is precious and powerful. Dismantling the dance department at UHM would be a terrible and regretful mistake.

Sincerely,

Amy Pivar, MA in Dance candidate UHM

9/14/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - letter of support for the Dance Department



dance dept letter of support.docx

14K

September 14, 2020

From: Amy Pivar, MA CAPS Dance candidate at UHM

amypivar@hawaii.edu

my phone: 917 324-8100

Dear University of Hawai'i at Manoa,

I am a graduate student in the Dance Department. I am distressed upon learning of proposals to eliminate the Dance Major in all degree levels. I understand the dire gravity of the economic situation globally, nationally and statewide. I understand that there are difficult decisions to be made that will impact many people. During this era of Covid, racial and economic crisis, it is my opinion that to make a radical cut like this is devastating, not only to the direct people involved, but the future of this state, as well as far-reaching global communities.

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The Arts need the unwavering support from humanistic institutions of higher learning. Dance is precious and powerful. Dismantling the dance department at UHM would be a terrible and regretful mistake.

Sincerely,

Amy Pivar, MA in Dance candidate UHM



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Mike Poblete <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:53 PM

Reply-To: mpoblete@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Mike Poblete
Email	mpoblete@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 4894676
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

UH sent an email this summer that it is making a commitment to addressing a long history of systemic racism. The performing arts are the bridge to the community that actualizes that conversation. You cannot calculate the monetary value of that. Further the performing arts are collaborative: our department cannot survive by cutting half of our degrees, we need designers

AND directors AND actors AND writers. To cut some of those degrees means cutting the entire department.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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Signature



Name:

Mike Poblete

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: 2236-A Oahu Ave
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Natalie Price <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: natprice16@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Natalie Price
Email	natprice16@gmail.com
Phone Number	(951) 7515725
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

I am writing to you not only as a dancer but as a prospective student. I applied to UHM for the flourishing dance and astronomy programs. Without one of the two programs that i am interested in, it becomes more and more difficult to see the benefits to moving an ocean away from my friends and family. The cut of the arts

programs currently offered at UHM would lose your institution many prospective students.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Natalie Price

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jasmine Quilit <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:48 AM

Reply-To: jrquilit@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Jasmine Quilit
Email	jrquilit@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3815134
Date	02-24-1999
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments	As a student of UH Manoa in the dance program, I can wholeheartedly say that without the dance program, I would not have applied, nor continued my four-year journey at the university. The faculty in this program have been there for me academically, physically, emotionally, always ready to go above and beyond their duties as university staff. Doing away with our "small programs"
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would severely undermine what we have built here—a community. That has impacted me leaps and bounds more than the academics here, and I know I will take the life lessons I have learned here with me far more than any knowledge I have learned from courses that I have been required to sit through.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name: Jasmine Quilit

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: Honolulu
State / Province: Hawaii
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rebecca Ramos <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Reply-To: rebecca.rc.ramos@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Rebecca Ramos
Email rebecca.rc.ramos@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 3915411
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

Not only have the theatre and dance departments at UHM consistently provided a place for those within those major tracks to grow and excel, they have also contributed to well rounded experiences for majors in other fields. Taking away the access to these classes and the productions that they share with the rest of the campus

regularly would be a tragedy and destroy part of what makes attending UHM a unique and defining experience.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Rebecca Ramos

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Monterey

State / Province: California

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Joe Rial <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Reply-To: georyl@aol.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Joe Rial
Email georyl@aol.com
Phone Number (707) 2236706
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

This program is unique among theatre programs for its cultural discussions and implementation into practice. New works have resulted from this. In addition, the number of my cohorts working in the world is testament to the efficacy of the program. Cutting this program would be a travesty, if for no other reason than the unique and authentic voice it gives other cultures, especially

Hawaiian, in the world, not only in art making, but in the historical context it offers it's students.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Joe Rial

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Po box 484 Miranda
State / Province: CA
Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ashleigh Riley <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:32 PM

Reply-To: ashleigh_riley98@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Ashleigh Riley
Email ashleigh_riley98@hotmail.com
Phone Number (000) 0000000
Date 09-15-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Cutting the arts, especially drama, will be a devastating blow to the community and to fellow university onlookers. You provide a one of a kind program which I would have loved to have studied, if I had the money, and to cut it would be disgraceful. I sincerely hope you change your mind before you show that by cutting the arts, you don't care about our future artists.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading

Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Ashleigh Riley

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [15 Park Drive](#)

State / Province: Huddersfield

Country: United Kingdom

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Withdraw your proposal to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies BA degree

Paola Rodelas <paolarodelas@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:31 PM

Aloha, Board of Regents:

I am calling on you all to withdraw your proposal to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies Bachelor in Arts degree. Even proposing this is detrimental to UH Manoa and the community. This could immediately result in a decrease in Ethnic Studies majors and weaken the Ethnic Studies department.

The UH Manoa Ethnic Studies department is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has accomplished so much in half a century. It comes out of a worldwide movement around national civil rights, anti-war and student movements and the Hawai'i anti-eviction, land, labor, and sovereignty movements.

I was an ethnic studies major who graduated from UC San Diego. I benefited greatly from this major and have spent the past 10 years since graduating doing labor and community organizing work that helps Hawaii's working people, immigrants, and the broader community.

I have worked as a community organizer for UNITE HERE Local 5 for the past seven years. Our union's relationship with the UH Manoa Ethnic Studies department has been fruitful not just for our organizations but for the entire state. By partnering together, we have educated and organized thousands of UH students and community members on important issues like labor rights, affordable housing, immigration reform, environmental justice, and much more. Local 5's staff and membership is full of people who have either taken ethnic studies classes or proudly majored in it.

Please provide evidence on how the option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies will result in immediate projected savings. In our ethnically diverse state, that an option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies even being considered is tone-deaf to this moment of national racial reckoning. Targeting Ethnic Studies under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism.

Warm regards,

--

Paola Rodelas
808-333-4782



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Darlene Rodrigues <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 9:33 AM

Reply-To: darlene.rodrigues@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Darlene Rodrigues
 Email darlene.rodrigues@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 6280647
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments Stop impoverishing education by cutting back these programs. These classes and programs make UH Manoa stand out and lure people to attend the institution. Don't be racist and hide behind "objective" guidelines.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much

as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Darlene Rodrigues

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: Mililani

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Collin Sanders <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:48 PM

Reply-To: collinsanders1998@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Collin Sanders
Email	collinsanders1998@gmail.com
Phone Number	(719) 7616218
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Dance, and all other performing arts help so many young people become their true selves and break out of their shells, forcing students to adapt a world with less art is a sure fire way to destroy a healthy and happy future for young creative people which are just as important as math and science.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Collin Sanders

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Fort Collins
State / Province: Colorado
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Tani Sebro <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:45 PM

Reply-To: ts231@humboldt.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Tani Sebro
Email ts231@humboldt.edu
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

I received a PhD in Politics from UH-Manoa in 2016 and I am now an Assistant Professor at Humboldt State University. I wrote my dissertation on how refugees use dance to overcome the wounds of war and violence. I took graduate courses in the dance program and Dr. Kara Miller was on my dissertation committee. I could not have completed my research and gone on to teach and publish about the politics of dance had it not been for the tremendous intellectual and methodological training I

received from the UH Department of Theatre and Dance. Dance Studies at UH are renowned for their work in indigenous and Asia-Pacific dance and it would be an immeasurable loss to cut funding to this vibrant and vital program.

I owe my career to this program and I cannot imagine a reputable institution without a thriving performing arts program.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Tani Sebro

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Arcata

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Danielle Seid <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:47 AM

Reply-To: dseid@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

**KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Danielle Seid
Email	dseid@hawaii.edu
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Additional Comments	Dance and movement is vital in a world of walls and borders. I urge you to protect dance and theater.
---------------------	---

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Signature



Name:

Danielle Seid

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Pamela Serrano <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:45 PM

Reply-To: pamela_se07@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Pamela Serrano
Email pamela_se07@hotmail.com
Phone Number (506) 8334432
Date 02-09-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

Arts are incredible important as they make people humble, creative and able to express feelings, represent others or understand topics through the diverse representations of art others make. Now more than ever, people need to be able to express and to have access to topics of the world and life that make them appreciate, feel like they belong, be sensitive and learn to feel and

express in more than words colors or dance, theatre, creative writing and appreciate others work. Of joy stop this program you are stopping a great possibility for students to experiment that in a world that right now is needing such much sensibility and a way to express.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

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Signature



Name: Pamela Serrano

I am a UH Manoa: Professional

Address
City: San jose
State / Province: Costa rica
Country: Costa Rica

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

re: Proposed Changes to ES

Amanda Shaw <ashaw37@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:11 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Please accept this letter in support of the Department of Ethnic Studies and its degree programs, including the BA in Ethnic Studies. I have had the opportunity over the years to work with students from ES and to attend dialogues, talks and seminars organized under the department. My own research on Hawai'i's food system would have been *impossible* without the incredible scholarship of members of this department.

At a time when racial injustices are now more visible to many in power, **this effort to "stop-out" ES or merge it under the banner of interdisciplinary studies is dangerous and ill-advised.** This is because, as several 2020 articles in Inside Higher Ed** have demonstrated:

1. Studies of race and ethnicity remain important and **increasingly popular areas of interest** from students in the social sciences and humanities.
2. Ethnic studies, on average, tend to enrol majority students of color who come to learn about their cultures, histories and struggles. **Cutting these programs will disproportionately impact students of color.**
3. The **impacts of the COVID-19** pandemic clearly demonstrate the need for better understanding about and action to end racial injustice.

Others will surely have added many other reasons to this list in their testimonies.

In sum, higher education, and public education, is a public good and cannot be subjected to market efficiencies given its character. There are surely ways in which the university can be restructured and transformed but **a top-down process is needlessly antagonistic** at a time when solidarity is truly needed and a real conversation about how to improve the university, led by students, precarious academic and support staff, is overdue.

I know that ES staff and students and their supporters stand ready to have a revised conversation with you about options for this important degree and department.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Dr. Amanda Shaw, Lecturer

Department of Political Science

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

ashaw37@hawaii.edu or 808.429.5310

**

Alvaro, H. (2020) "The Right to Ethnic Studies in Higher Education"

<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2020/05/15/why-students-should-be-required-take-ethnic-studies-opinion>

Watson, E. (2020) "More Crucial Than Ever"

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2020/07/13/ethnic-studies-courses-colleges-and-universities-are-more-vital-today-ever-opinion>



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jennifer Shirai <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:38 PM

Reply-To: jshirai14@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jennifer Shirai
Email jshirai14@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 9897473
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

I am a parent of a 12 year old dancer and musical theater lover who aspires to enter the Dance program at UH. We, as a family, have attended many UH dance and theatre performances throughout the years. She looks to these students and performances as inspiration for herself and appreciates the university training they receive.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jennifer Shirai

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: Hawai'i

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Elise Shuford <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:12 PM

Reply-To: eliseshuford@me.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Elise Shuford
Email	eliseshuford@me.com
Phone Number	(770) 4030232
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

The program is truly unique. People travel from all over the globe to attend a program you truly cannot find elsewhere. I have kept more contacts with students, colleagues, professors and Friends from my tenure at UHM than from any of my other two degree programs. I have learned about cultures that I couldn't possibly have

learned from other universities. The program preserves art forms and that needs to be kept alive.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Elise Shuford

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Rochester

State / Province: NY

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Cha Smith <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:44 PM

Reply-To: cha.m.smith@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Cha Smith
Email cha.m.smith@gmail.com
Date 09-15-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments: Cut contracts with the military.RCUH. Defund football

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Cha Smith

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: 4117 Black Point Rd

State / Province: Hi

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Theo Steinman <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:09 AM

Reply-To: theoahu@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name	Theo Steinman
Email	theoahu@gmail.com
Phone Number	(207) 9692278
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Additional Comments	We have a brand new dance studio and incredible staff. Unbelievable
---------------------	---

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Signature



Name:

Theo Steinman

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [86-743 puuhulu rd.](#)

State / Province: Waianae, Hawaii

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Emily Steward <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:23 PM

Reply-To: EmilyEStew@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Emily Steward
Email EmilyEStew@gmail.com
Phone Number (734) 6805696
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments: I would be more than willing to work with the administration, department and state to look for ways in which we can downsize while we apply for funding.

During difficult times throughout history art has endured. This is a key moment in our global history, do not erase artists at UH from that narrative.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

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Signature



Name:

Emily Steward

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Re: Potential Program Cuts to Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Lee Stone <amandaleestone@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:24 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, omalley@hawaii.edu

To President David Lassner,

My name is Lee Stone and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am an American citizen, living and working as a theatre practitioner in Toronto, Canada. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) with a B.A. in Theatre Arts (2013). The UHM Theatre Department was a practical and well-rounded theatrical training experience. Because of my degree, I have worked regularly with Toronto theatre companies as a performer, director, stage manager and fight choreographer. My most recent Canadian theatre experience was as an assistant director with the Stratford Festival. My training from UHM is precisely the reason that I was selected for this opportunity out of a vast number of applicants.

During my time at UHM, I studied under master teachers from around the globe. As you know, Hawai'i is geographically situated between Western and Asian theatre, and thus, fusion and world theatre is a standard practice at UHM. In addition, the Hawaiian Studies department often works in tandem with the Theatre Department to produce Indigenous and Local Hawaiian stories and histories. My department taught me that live performance has a much broader scope than the lens that Western Theatre and "the classics" usually affords us. Because of the UHM Theatre Department, I also began playing taiko (traditional Japanese drumming) and since then I have trained with world-renowned taiko artists in the United States, Canada and Japan. I now work regularly as a production stage manager and tour manager for taiko groups across North America which I can attribute to my theatre training from UHM.

For me, theatre has always been an opportunity for community growth and empowerment alongside individual growth and empowerment. It is more important than ever that we model the values of inclusivity and diversity in our art and entertainment. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Theatre Department gave me many practical tools to be successful in theatre production but it also taught me to value artists and artistry from across the globe. It gave me the best education I could have hoped for and completely changed the way I view live performance. It is for these reasons that I hope you will reconsider the proposed program cut to the Theatre and Dance Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have specific questions or require further information.

Lee Stone

amandaleestone@gmail.com

 Potential Program Cuts at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.pdf
43K

Re: Potential Program Cuts to Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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September 14, 2020

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Lee Stone
amandaleestone@gmail.com



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kyle Suzuki <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 7:51 PM

Reply-To: kylesuzu@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Kyle Suzuki
Email kylesuzu@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 5543522
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Theatre 101 was one of my last courses I have taken this past summer semester before graduating. Although I was a KRS student and I was mainly taking this course to fulfill a writing intensive requirement, I learned so much from this introductory class, particularly the importance of theatre especially as it relates to Hawaii. I would have loved to watch some live performances if COVID-19

permitted, but regardless I could still feel the impact of the art form that is theatre virtually. I believe that theatre is essential, as it has been now for centuries as a medium for telling stories and expressing ones culture, and that it shouldn't be eliminated. I rarely left comments or reviews during my time as an undergrad, but this seemed to pressing for me to ignore which I think should say something of how much it means to me.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to

empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Kyle Suzuki

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [730 Ekela Avenue #5](#)

State / Province: Hawaii / Honolulu

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Immediately withdraw the option to “stop-out” ES

Tamara Swift <swiftt@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:55 PM

The Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focuses on comparative analyses of racial and ethnic groups and inequalities among them through the lens of social justice. They take an 'āina (land) and ocean-based approach to four focal areas—migration, social justice, oceanic connections, and engagement. Their research and teaching are interdisciplinary and transnational. They prepare ethnic studies scholars who specialize in race and ethnicity as they intersect with indigeneity, class, gender, and sexuality in Hawai'i, the United States, and Oceania.

By foregrounding civic engagement and service learning Ethnic Studies is able to foster thoughtful and compassionate **leaders and stewards** of the 'āina, which are in great demand at this time! They must be allowed to continue to train students to imagine and craft responsible and sustainable alternatives to local, regional, national, and global problems.

The option for a “stop-out” at this point can trigger a decrease in majors, weaken ES and provide no short-term cost savings for the university. We must stop this act of institutional racism. Where is the evidence of savings? Stop targeting Ethnic Studies and immediately withdraw the option to “stop-out” ES!

--

Tamara E Swift
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Political Science
University of Hawai'i at [Mānoa](#)
[2424 Maile Way](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96822](#)
E-mail: swiftt@hawaii.edu



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jonathan Sypert <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 1:26 PM

Reply-To: lookupword@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Jonathan Sypert
Email	lookupword@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2551659
Date	09-14-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

The Asian Theatre program at UH is just one of many crown jewels; not just of the Theatre and Dance Department, but for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa at large. While budgets must always be balanced with longevity and prosperity in mind, it is also important to reevaluate and redistribute all available resources towards every program, area of study, and academic

groups that bring accolades and recognition to the University due to their impact on Academia. If this administration would choose to capitalize on the strengths of the collective efforts of the Arts and Humanities, the road to prosperity would be revealed.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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Signature



Name:

Jonathan Sypert

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Michelle Tan <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:47 PM

Reply-To: mmtt@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Michelle Tan
Email mmtt@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 3588508
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
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Please add your additional comments:

This would be a huge step backward for UH Manoa and I think it is so vile to propose this even.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Michelle Tan

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Ryder Tanaka <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:55 PM

Reply-To: ryderjt@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Ryder Tanaka
Email	ryderjt@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 3883193
Date	05-13-2000
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Please add your additional comments:

In my essay for the 2018 Regents Scholarship application, I wrote about how impactful my exposure to music had been on my life, and about how it was BECAUSE of music and the performing arts that I was able to academically excel as a student. Upon notification that I was selected for the scholarship, I was thrilled to see that UHM understood and valued the importance and

necessity of the performing arts within our society. However, in light of these cuts to the Theatre and Dance programs, I now realize that my past impressions about UHM do not hold true. I am very disappointed in these blatantly racist, colonialist and capitalist decisions made by the administration, and demand justice for all artists and creatives that call, or have once called, UH their home. Without the arts, we are nothing.

"The arts are not just a nice thing to have or do if there is free time or if one can afford it. Rather, painting and poetry, music and fashion, design and dialogue, they all define who we are as a people and provide an account of our history for the next generation." - Michelle Obama

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Ryder Tanaka

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Serious Cuts, Serious Insults

Kristina Tannenbaum <kltannenbaum@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 4:47 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, covid19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, Tom Brislin <tbrislin@hawaii.edu>, kondo@hawaii.edu, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, efisher@hawaii.edu, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Kirstin Pauka <kpauka@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern-

With all due respect, are you kidding me? You're thinking of cutting Theatre? One of the most culturally important components of UH Manoa? I was the Theatre House Manager for 3 years and an assistant manager for 1 year. I can't tell you how many members of the community came to support our Asian Theatre Program. Hundreds for every single show. They're incredibly popular and beloved. I've spoken to women in their 80s who come to every single show since the beginning. Partially because of the unique opportunity the shows provide but also because these shows are culturally significant to a large part of the population of Hawai'i. During my tenure at UH, our department also housed many scholars from around the world who came to work on these shows. One in particular studied our Kabuki techniques class and took nihon buho dance classes. By ending this program you would not only be hurting the school and the local community but also other scholars in the US and abroad. There is nothing like our program in the world. Plus, this department houses a priceless collection of unique and vintage costumes and props. These are used in both our courses and our performances. Separating this collection and taking it out of use would be damn near criminal.

Additionally, tons of UH donors have connections to our performances and program. I spoke with many as I was the face of the theatre for multiple years. They will clearly take their **money** elsewhere if you slight them by removing UH Theatre and their ability to attend these performances.

On a personal level, I had some of the most unique, formative, and important moments of my life in the program. Additionally, it made me more culturally aware and sensitive. It prepared me to work in theatre in NYC (where I am now) and in Asia. During this challenging time in the world we need MORE programs like the UH theatre department. Not fewer. Reminder: this program is the only one of it's kind in the WORLD. What message would you be sending about how you view education and cultural sensitivity if you were to cut this unique program?

Plus our department produces amazing and important theatrical works in Hawaiian and about Hawaiian culture. So if you cut it... not a good look. Think of it this way: cutting this program will send a message that you don't care about the local community and Hawaiian arts and culture. That you find it pointless to pass on and fund. That you don't care. Does UH REALLY want to do that... again? What bad and terrible poor PR move for the school.

Also. cutting social work? Really? What the actual hell? I hope you get fired if you cut this program. What an insult to the community you live and work in. Social work. Social work.... I lived in Hawai'i for a decade. Hawai'i needs social workers. And especially those from Hawai'i, who were trained in Hawai'i, and who understand the cultural hot pot it is. Really?

Please rethink these cuts.

Do better,

Kristina Tannenbaum, Ph.D.
UH Manoa Alumna '10 & '18
Theatre Administrator
New York, NY



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

SAVE ETHNIC STUDIES

Tanielle Tokoro <ttokoro@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:42 PM

To UH Regents:

I oppose the proposed option to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies Bachelors of Arts. Ethnic Studies gave me inspiration, motivation, confidence, courage, self worth, a family, a place on campus that I felt safe, and so much more. Ethnic Studies also helped me be more involved in my community (Kahalu'u) and other communities as well (Manoa, Haleiwa, Honolulu, Kona, Big Island, Kahoolawe, Maui). Ethnic Studies expanded my knowledge and my abilities to aid and connect with many people throughout the world. With that said, the University of Hawaii at Manoa must rethink their proposal to the option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies Bachelorof Arts. How will the option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies will result in the immediate projected savings? I demand that the administration stop targeting Ethnic Studies and immediately withdraw the option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies Bachelors of Art. The option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies will trigger a decrease in ES majors, weaken ES, and provide no short-term cost savings for the university. This is not right and we must stop this act of institutional racism!

Mahalo,
Tanielle Tokoro



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Diane Umeda <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:54 PM

Reply-To: writegyu@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Diane Umeda
Email writegyu@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 680-0812
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

My son is a dance student at Mid Pac and Hawaii State Ballet. I would like for him to have the option to major in dance at UH.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Diane Umeda

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [94-1153 Moolelo Street Waipahu](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Victor Uwagboe <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:34 PM

Reply-To: victor_uwagboe@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Victor Uwagboe
Email victor_uwagboe@hotmail.com
Phone Number (045) 0319332
Date 09-15-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Now more than ever, it's important to preserve the arts.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

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President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

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Signature



Name:

Victor Uwagboe

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [55A Osborne Street](#)
State / Province: Melbourne
Country: Australia

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Angela Valdez <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:48 AM

Reply-To: angela.vldz@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Angela Valdez
 Email angela.vldz@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 5544893
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments As one of the most diverse dance programs in the U.S, I believe that the work being done in the University of Hawaii Dance Program is essential to the University's overall contribution to the progression of the prominence of Indigenous arts in the U.S. Many dance alumni have gone to work nationally and internationally; myself included now working as an artist in Melbourne Australia.

Without the this program I would not have developed the skills and had the experience necessary to become critically thinking dance artist.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

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Signature



Name:

Angela Valdez

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Waipahu

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kelly Wadlegger <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:49 PM

Reply-To: kwadlegger@hotmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Kelly Wadlegger

Email kwadlegger@hotmail.com

Phone Number (808) 6704756

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

I have my MFA in Dance from UHM 2009. I have worked 11 years professionally as a choreographer, dance artist, director and Grade 6-12 theatre arts educator since I got my degree. I owe a lot my success to the masters I have worked under in the theatre and dance program at UH Manoa. Do not cut this valuable program from which many influential colleagues have come.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Kelly Wadlegger

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Wailuku

State / Province: Hi

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Christine Walters <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:30 PM

Reply-To: cwalters@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Christine Walters

Email cwalters@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2641665

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

It's heartbreaking to see fear of the unknown grip even the most educated of our decision makers; there's a much more rational way of handling the current crisis, and these sorts of solutions aren't going to help in the long term. There is a lot of uncertainties at the moment, and these decisions based on emotions, rather than reason, will not only damage the reputation of our esteemed institution: it

has the potential to drive down enrollment at a time when the University needs student enrollment the most. While the immediate concern of balancing the budget is understandable, we need to be measuring those decisions against the big picture consequences. As a gentle reminder, in times of crisis such as these, WE NEED TO UPHOLD OUR MISSION: "to advance the values and goals of a democratic society and ensure the survival of present and future generations with improvement in the quality of life". The ultimate goal, for all of us, is to serve our students and the community at large.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Christine Walters

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 832 Puunani Place

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Support for Theatre and Dance degrees at UHM

Charmian Wells <charmiewells@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:11 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu

Dear David Lassner,

I write in support of the Theatre and Dance degrees at University of Hawaii Manoa.

While interdisciplines, such as dance studies, gender and sexuality studies, and black studies are often considered to be particular, specialized areas of research, rather than advancing general humanities concerns and discourses, in fact the study of dance, especially its relation to modern (racialized, gendered, and sexualized) subjectivity, addresses central concerns of the humanities more broadly. Treating the performing arts as disposable does a major disservice to students to the university, and to the cultural landscape more broadly.

I hope the university will reconsider the proposal to eliminate the Theater and Dance programs.

Sincerely,
Charmian Wells--
PhD Dance Studies
Temple University



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Kelly Williams <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:24 AM

Reply-To: kelly@williamsgrantwriting.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Kelly Williams
 Email kelly@williamsgrantwriting.com
 Phone Number (312) 6360219
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
 Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
 Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Additional Comments Alumni- MFA Directing 2001

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

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these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Kelly Williams

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Wellington
State / Province: Florida
Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rashida Vennie Wofford <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:26 PM

Reply-To: rashidajewel@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Rashida Vennie Wofford

Email rashidajewel@gmail.com

Phone Number (702) 4984884

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please add your additional comments:

There is no other Dance Program in the United States that provides such a culturally diverse program. It is truly a draw for both international and domestic students. In addition to the dance educational courses available makes this program an incredibly valuable gem to students who are looking for diversity in their education.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as

the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Rashida Vennie Wofford

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 5105 Reiter Ace
State / Province: Las Vegas
Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Rose Wolfe <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:23 PM

Reply-To: pepitorose@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name	Rose Wolfe
Email	pepitorose@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 7538169
Date	09-04-1987
Letter Heading	To: UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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 Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Please add your additional comments: On behalf of my teenage niece and her friends, who aspire to attend UH to enjoy learning the art of Dance and Theater, please do not cut these programs!

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the

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Signature



Name:

Rose Wolfe

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: 1020 Green St

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Timothy Won <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:08 AM

Reply-To: twon@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Timothy Won
 Email twon@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 3917154
 Date 09-14-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
 UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
 The Board of Regents
 Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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 Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
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Additional Comments The dance program has personally impacted my life in a major way. I have cultivated many close relationships/friendship within the dance community and have found it to be a place where I feel welcomed and connected to others. Removing funding from the dance program would mean taking away a crucial practice of art and expression at UHM.

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Timothy Won

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Mililani

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Reina Yamashita <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:37 PM

Reply-To: reinamy@hawaii.edu

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Name Reina Yamashita

Email reinamy@hawaii.edu

Date 09-14-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

Hearing about this was very frustrating for me as an instructor at Hawaii State Ballet because I am concerned for the futures of our students and the availability of opportunities for them when they seek higher education in theatre and/or dance. I want for all students--even those who may not be involved in the arts now--to have the option to attend UH to achieve their goals and dreams as artists.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Reina Yamashita

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

Country: United States

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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Jasmine Yep <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:09 PM

Reply-To: jhuynh@sfballet.org

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Jasmine Yep
Email jhuynh@sfballet.org
Phone Number (415) 8615600
Date 09-14-2020
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
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Please add your additional comments:

Eliminating the Department of Theatre and Dance, or reducing courses in the performing arts, will not solve the deep budget cuts the university is aiming for. Instead, it will silence a generation of artists and educators who would otherwise be the first responders to the soul. The UHM Department of Theatre and Dance is the most recognized and respected Asian Theatre and Asian

Dance academic program in the country. The program's depth and breadth in Asian performing arts courses reaches across all disciplines of art forms (theatre, dance, music, puppetry, scenic design, costume design, history, theory, theatre for young audiences, etc) and hones the skills of the next generation of artists, educators, policy makers, and global citizens. The state's economic recovery depends on tourism, and artists play a significant role in sharing, educating, creating, and representing culturally appropriate artistic experiences for tourists and locals alike. Don't let Disney tell the story of Hawaii, instead, UHM should continue to provide students who live in Hawaii the tools and education they need to tell their own stories and let their voices be heard. I encourage the Board to reconsider the proposed drastic and detrimental cuts to the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Jasmine Yep

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: San Francisco
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KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.

Alexandra Yount <noreply@jotform.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:30 PM

Reply-To: kaumakayount99@gmail.com

To: mhou@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, david.lassner@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

 **KEEP THEATRE AND DANCE AT UHM- I strongly oppose the proposed cuts.**

Name Alexandra Yount
Email kaumakayount99@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 3797477
Date 08-09-1999
Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno
The Board of Regents
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
Associate Dean of CALL, Kimi Kondo-Brown
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:

-Austerity Pay-cuts for all UH Manoa and UH System administrators earning over \$250,000 per year, as this measure is consistent with the pandemic response plans at other universities.

-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

There's no need to cut programs. Cut your salary.

Letter Body:

Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree tracks, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as one-third of peer and benchmark schools on the continent, UHM Theatre and Dance programs produce a

comparable number of graduates every year.

Your report on proposed cuts to programs in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL) even states that, "The 100-level dance and technique courses do not count towards the BA/BFA degrees. These are taught by lecturers and a few GAs. Given that these are not taught by tenure-track faculty, the classes are relatively inexpensive to continue. The courses are popular." The said lecturers and GAs represent those trained by the UH Manoa tenured and tenure-track dance faculty. This statement reveals that even if you don't value the contributions of dance graduate students and faculty enough to continue the dance department for future student generations, you certainly value the money that their teaching brings to this university. Your proposal shamelessly contributes to the exploitation of adjunct labor to teach "inexpensive" courses, while overlooking the fact that these dance professionals represent the artistic lineage of the dance MFA program, and the undergraduate dance program.

President Lassner, how can you propose to cut the university's dance programs after your own dance training and your oft-stated belief in the value of hula? Your proposed cuts diminish the significance of dance and theatre within this community, including its importance as a place-based form of Indigenous knowledge.

The proposed cuts to Dance and Theatre form, in conjunction with many of your other proposed cuts and consolidations, a pattern that perpetuates histories of racism and colonialism. As with Dance and Theatre, Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, are fields where women, BIPOC and other under-represented populations in academia find leadership and pathways to support our the state with needed community-directed research projects, as well as help to build a resilient workforce that could serve the local economy. These cuts are directly in conflict with UH Manoa's stated commitment to deliver "a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha."

These so-called "budget cuts" are, in fact, cuts that will end our artistic genealogies and histories, and sever the next generation from being nurtured by the legacy of local artistry that only exists in Hawai'i. Your cuts tell local creatives, arts educators, and stewards of knowledge, "You have no place in this state. You must leave your homes, your communities, and the people you hope to empower, in order to receive a higher education."

It is shameful that Executive Management propose these devastating cuts while preserving your own and Executive Management's inflated salaries.

It is a shame that your administration is, under the cloak of COVID-19 and the decline in tourism revenue, proposing these program eliminations, rather than leading Hawai'i through our present crisis by putting UH at the helm, and working together to pivot these islands toward establishing a more sustainable and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of these proposed cuts, and to hearing future news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree tracks, in an ongoing conversation with the community you have been tasked to serve.

Signature



Name:

Alexandra Yount

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

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Country: United States

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I support the cut of the dept.

Kate Zhou <katezhou@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 4:32 PM

Since our department has indigenous studies and many other departments also teach race studies, it is ok for those faculty to go to those dept. to save money.
Kate Zhou

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