



Do not stop-out ethnic studies

Danita Aiu <d_au@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:34 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: d_au@yahoo.com

I am writing to ask the Board of Regents not to Stop -Out the ethnic studies program and department. Ethnic Studies is the result of a struggle by students and faculty to offer a local perspective of the development of our diverse community and honors the contribution each ethnic group, as they both assimilated and kept their cultural practices while providing labor. Ethnic Studies provides the opportunity to learn about each ethnic group and in so doing promotes appreciation, instead of racism. While our nation is trying to promote more acceptance of all races that live in America, it would appear that the stop-out of ethnic Studies would have the university going backwards instead of contributing/leading this national effort. Therefore, I ask you to fund and retain the Ethnic Studies program, their research and their recording of precious oral histories.

Sent from my iPad



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

re: Testimony regarding COVID-19 Budget Crisis Planning

Adrian Alarilla <alarilla@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:14 PM

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

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu

Dear UH Board of Regents and Administration,

Attached please find a copy of my letter regarding the recently proposed budget plans.

Warm regards,

Adrian Alarilla



Alarilla - Letter to University of Hawai'i Board of Regents on Covid-19 budget crisis planning.pdf
92K

September 15, 2020

Dear University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents and Administration,

I am Adrian Alarilla, a History PhD student, and I am writing to express my disappointment and dissatisfaction with the “budget crisis plan” that has only been recently made public. I fail to see how “rebuilding the economy” can be made through program budget cuts, when the executive leadership continue to be grossly overcompensated. With the combined [executive managerial salaries](#) (as of November 2019) amounting to over \$36 Million, this seems vulgar and excessive especially when you consider that UH students (including me) are struggling to make ends meet in a pandemic world, and in a state troubled with food insecurity and an [unemployment rate of 13%](#).

Instead of focusing on these excesses, the administration has instead threatened to cut programs that are chronically underfunded and yet impact our community in meaningful, impactful ways. In his recently released message, Provost Bruno says that “our ‘value’ is measured by the quality and impact of our student learning, our scholarship and our service in the community.” And yet, a cursory review of the programs being threatened (PhD in Social Welfare, MS in Public Health, BA in Journalism, Graduate Certificate in Public Policy, MA in American Studies, MA in Political Science, MA in Sociology, MA in Anthropology, etc.) seems to suggest that the university is willing to do away with these very fields that can serve the community. What does it say to the community of Hawai‘i that its premier state university is doing away with social welfare, public health, journalism, and public policy? Why are we getting rid of critical social sciences right when we need them the most to navigate the complex race matters plaguing contemporary Hawai‘i and American society today? Why are we getting rid of the arts (MA in Art History, MA/MFA/BA/BFA in Dance, PhD/MA in Theatre, MA in Ethnomusicology, etc.) when we need them now more than ever to process our emotions and regain some semblance of humanity during this dehumanizing pandemic?

I am particularly opposed to the stop-out of the BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures. As a diasporic Filipino, I recognize the need for more Filipino representation and safe spaces in higher education. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures provides a space to study our heritage and reconnect with it, especially since for so many of us, this has been lost due to assimilation and colonialism. This is especially important since Hawai‘i has a large Filipino

population, and yet we remain underrepresented in higher education. Taking this BA away from us only indicates that the university devalues our culture and the meaningful ways Filipinos have contributed to Hawai‘i.

I moved here from the continent specifically to study the unique history and heritage of Filipinos in Hawai‘i, as well as work with the reputable and well-established Center for Philippine Studies here. The connections I have forged with the program and the center during the past couple of years have influenced and shaped my research in positive ways. Equally important was my time at the East-West Center, where I met people not only from all over the world, but also from different disciplines across the university. That many of their programs are also imperiled is very troubling for me and for many of my friends. What kinds of meaningful transdisciplinary and transnational connections can we make once we significantly reduce these programs?

The university does have a role in reviving the economy, but not when its mission for a well-rounded, racially just and socially relevant education has been severely incapacitated by budget cuts. I stand in solidarity with all of these programs currently being threatened by an administration that makes use of dubious statistics without taking into consideration the meaningful and often intangible ways that these programs have impacted their students, the university, and the community. I strongly oppose the budget plan and hope the administration finds a way to be more equitable and compassionate.

I appreciate that it was stated that these “suggestions were never meant to be the last word, but the beginning of an open conversation.” Accordingly, I trust that the administration listens to the voices of the university’s students, faculty, staff, and community.

Warm regards,

Adrian Alarilla



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony AGAINST stop out of Ethnic Studies Major

Dean Alegado <benc.ramos@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:47 PM

Aloha,

Please find attached my testimony in support of the Ethnic Studies undergraduate major.

Salamat,
Dr. Dean Alegado
Retired Professor, Ethnic Studies Department, University of Hawai'i Mānoa
former Chair, Ethnic Studies Department

 **2020_09_15 BOR Testimony_AlegadoDeanT_v3.docx**
16K

September 15, 2020

Testimony to the UH Board of Regents on Mānoa Budget Team proposed “option to stop out” Ethnic Studies major

Dear Chair Kudo,

Aloha, my name is Dean Alegado, one of the founders of the Ethnic Studies Department. I came to Hawai'i in 1975 and found a job as a .25 FTE in the fledging Ethnic Studies Program, being paid \$350. The mid-1970s was a very dramatic period for Hawai'i as the political landscape began to change, inspired primarily by the Native Hawaiian movement. But that wasn't the only thing that inspired hundreds of community and student activists to become radicalized and demand changes - more than 35 plantations throughout the state were shutting down as sugar and pineapple industries left Hawai'i and even the iconic pineapple water tower in Iwilei is gone. If you can, imagine the impact that it would have on these communities, many of whom were being ousted and evicted from their residences for real estate development and the emerging hotel-tourism industry. In response, many locals organized the anti-eviction movement, not just on O'ahu but throughout the state and some of these radicalized community activists and students would enter the University of Hawai'i and would have many powerful questions such as, “Who does the university serve? How does the community benefit?” Many asked, “why don't we know the history and contribution of our grandparents and parents?” who were the backbone of Hawai'i's economy.

At that time, there were no classes at the University that talked about these things, and hardly any research or writings about the contributions of the local Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, Chinese and a strong movement began to develop demanding a program that would address these issues. But that wasn't the only problem. At that time, there were few local people who were tenured or held teaching status. On top of that, most of the administration were what we would call “Haole”, who really didn't have a sensitivity toward the desires of locals and Hawaiians to have their history and culture be taught at the University. And this is what started the movement for Ethnic Studies with the slogan, “Our history, our way”.

It took many years, but finally after many sit-ins, and a major occupation at Bachman Hall, we finally achieved a semblance of a victory – because our funding was *manini* (miniscule). I spent 35 years of my life at the University of Hawai'i, painstakingly working from being a lecturer to being the Chair of the Department. I'm proud to say that we built Ethnic Studies to become prominent not only nationally but also internationally as one of the best Ethnic Studies programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

Once again, because of the pandemic and the damage it's done to the economy and revenue, the most vulnerable programs are under attack. For example, elimination of critical programs such as Philippine Languages would be a huge mistake. These programs have a function in effective communication of health outreach and social services information. We know that Filipino communities are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and need more, not less resources from experts about these cultures. While it may seem like hard economic decisions need to be made, we have to think outside the box. I would suggest that the University make hard decisions to even go into deficit because the pandemic is not going to last forever. We need the Board of Regents to bite the bullet and sign a Social Contract with these programs to restore the funding when things get better in a few years. We can ask the Governor to do that – because that's what the State did in the 1980s when the Japanese real estate boom busted. We have to make decisions that even vulnerable programs are important. It would take a courageous stand by the Board of Regents to support these programs no matter how dire our budgets are. I challenge the Board of regents and the administration at the University to support these programs.

Ethnic Studies I would say has produced as many outstanding political, community, and government leaders as any other program at the University of Hawai'i. That's why we have the support of the community. We will also be calling on our friends and allies in the State Legislature and Congress, and the communities, the labor unions and other civic organizations to support us.

But that's why we need the support of the BOR too. We need an agreement that while budget cuts cannot be avoided, funding can be **restored** when the economy bounces back. This is a stand that the BOR needs to make as an investment in the people, culture and community of Hawai'i. That's a solemn pledge you should make to the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo and salamat,

Dr. Dean Alegado



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

Tsuyuno Amos <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:30 PM

Reply-To: chloe.t.t.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, 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 Tsuyuno Amos
 Email chloe.t.t.amos@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 5512612
 Date 01-26-1995
 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:

The performing arts are a crucial field that needs growth within our community, and the UH Theatre & Dance department has done so much to develop that growth. Without UH Theatre & Dance, Kumu Kahua Theatre would not be celebrating its 50th season of local plays at extremely accessible prices for the community. Cuts to

these degree programs would have stifling ripple effects on the entire Honolulu arts 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.

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:

Tsuyuno Amos

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Honolulu

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>

Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

Sherylynne Andrada <sma3@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:09 PM

Attached is my Letter of Testimony in Protest University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

--

Sherylynne Manuel Andrada
University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2021
She/Her/Hers

B.A. Candidate in Biology

B.A. Candidate in Psychology

B.A. Candidate in Philippine Lang. & Lit. - Ilokano

M. Ed. Candidate in Educational Psychology



A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal.docx
17K

A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

My name is Sherylynne Andrada, born and raised on the island of Maui, and the second child in an immigrant family who has settled in the currently occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i. I am a part of the first generation in my family to pursue a college education outside of the Philippines and I am a candidate in Bachelors of Arts in Biology, Psychology, and Philippine Language & Culture with a concentration in Ilokano. I hereby oppose the highly unacceptable proposed cutting-down of the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and elimination of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL).

I insist that cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its conception, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program has been the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

Upon my arrival to the University, I had been ignorant to the importance of my own culture and language. However, after being able to take Ilokano language and Philippine culture courses and participate in Ilokano dialogues with my family and my community, I had learned the importance of identity and representation of the Filipino and Ilokano cultures and community within higher education. I first started taking Ilokano courses from the introductory levels and have enjoyed and appreciated the many lessons and experiences that I have gained. Although I was surrounded by the Ilokano language and culture while growing up, I was still born here in Hawaii and there are many things that I do not know or understand regarding the Ilokano language and Philippine culture. Participating in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program here at the University has helped me connect with my heritage and also connect with people facing similar experiences and encounters as my own. I have also interacted with a diverse group of people and I now understand the importance of embracing and integrating culture and diversity in education.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has not only prominently contributed to my personal growth, but also to my academic and professional growth and development. I aim to pursue a career in education, particularly in secondary or higher education, where I am able to support and assist many students who are still developing and creating and exploring their own

journeys and identities. I hope to be able to communicate and connect well with the students that I will encounter within my future profession. I believe that student affairs create the opportunity to support the diverse populations of students in various efforts to encourage them to pursue their goals, to assist them in engaging and involving themselves purposefully during the journey, to prepare for their experiences after graduation, and assist in the navigation towards their own success. I plan to be a part of a welcoming institution with well-built programs that provide multiple types of support for the diverse population and an institution that is able to assist each individual student in finding their own pace and their own place in the world.

As a student that has struggled in finding my own place in my education and in life, I hope to be able to use my degree in Philippine Language & Culture with a concentration in Ilokano to provide guidance and create programs for other students facing difficulties that might impede their journey within education, including cultural differences and language barriers. I believe that nothing should impede one's own learning and growth, especially when there is a strong desire and a strong support system. Therefore, I am interested in working with both individual students and large groups of students to help them find their own sense of belonging in education, create an environment conducive to their education, while also assisting them with understanding the different opportunities to overcome their obstacles and struggles.

Along with assisting me on my professional journey, I also understand the impact that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has on the Filipino community here in Hawai'i. With the knowledge and insight that I gained in the program, I realized that not only do Filipinos make up 11% of the University's population, but Filipinos also make up a large portion of the population in Hawai'i, yet despite making up approximately 25% of the Hawai'i's population, Filipinos are amongst the highly disadvantaged communities. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures. The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences.

Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. Furthermore, most Filipino families live in a multi-generational household intended to help afford housing and basic needs, yet this economic solution can translate into a health risk facilitating the easy transmission of COVID-19. Despite Filipinos having the second-largest population in Hawaii, Filipino health is still poorly understood as there is limited research on this topic, especially since Filipinos are often aggregated under Asians or Pacific Islanders which can obscure how Filipinos are impacted by health disparities.

Prior to the pandemic, Filipinos reported one of the lowest rates of access to healthcare across racial/ethnic groups in the state. For many Filipino immigrants, an added barrier to seeking health care is reflected in their limited English proficiency and health care literacy along with the

system's lack of translational services in Ilokano and Tagalog, especially in telehealth services. This can cause difficulties, especially for older Filipino immigrants and Filipinos with chronic conditions, as they try to navigate a foreign health system to meet their health needs. Also, given that a large proportion of our Filipino population are immigrants, we need to understand the differences in cultural core values and provide health care services that are culturally appropriate for Filipino needs. We can build upon our community values to address health needs. Furthermore, developing bilingual support services for Filipino immigrants will enable them to establish trustworthy relationships between the patient and provider, even in telehealth situations, thus strengthening the quality of care received.

In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in not only maintaining literacy in their heritage languages, but also developing cultural competence to support the community. Taking away our program and institutionalized education in our language and culture is not the way to support Filipino lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

At this moment, there are many communities in Hawai'i suffering and lacking support, including the Filipino community, which again makes up 25% of Hawai'i's population. The questions we immediately need to ask ourselves now are: Who are the people that are providing for these communities and advocating for them? What are we doing as an institution to provide for these communities? What can be done in the future to serve the Filipino community and all the other communities in Hawai'i that have been suffering under the current conditions of systemic and institutionalized racism?

Finally, the overall proposal of cutting the crucial socio-cultural programs at the University, such as Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature, Ethnic Studies, Women Studies, etc, which promote and invoke the much-needed social change, is **INCREDIBLY UNACCEPTABLE**. Targeting these programs under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism. These decisions in the proposal are working to ignore and demean the legacies of Hawai'i's multi-ethnic peoples that these programs continue to uphold and pass on to new generations of students. While reflecting on the University's current budget proposal, I urge everyone to ask themselves the following questions: Who are we to damage the strength of programs who are crucially important to the social and cultural growth of the students? Who are we to disrupt social change? Who are we, as an institution, actually protecting and serving by eliminating these programs that seek for equity? Who are we to oppress the efforts of our students to create a society that works to better serve our communities?



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Kawehi Apo <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:57 PM

Reply-To: kawehiapo@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 Kawehi Apo
 Email kawehiapo@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 2222462
 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: To deny Hawaiian music and arts would be to deny Hawaiian culture in our own home.

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:

Kawehi Apo

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: 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.

Lisa Araneda <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:04 AM

Reply-To: lisacaraneda@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	Lisa Araneda
Email	lisacaraneda@gmail.com
Phone Number	(909) 2239390
Date	05-20-1954
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:

Arts are the avenue for keeping all of human cultures viable and alive. With all of the unprecedented times we are all experiencing, we need the Arts more than ever. Dance has always been an intricate component of man's existence. It is a total body and mind form of free expression. Dance defines all ethnic differences and unites them. Something our world, for the most part, is

striving to uphold. The avenue for change to make this a better world is upon us more than ever today. To make cuts that will diminish the integrity of the College of the Arts at UH is simply wrong!

Fitness and health is bigger today than ever before especially with this generation and those of the future. We need qualified teachers to guide our youth in the Arts so they can express their feelings, ideas, desires, and social and political stances without violence. The Arts, dance in particular, is one of the beautiful things we have in this world that, many times is ugly. Why would you want to take that away from our young at any time, but especially now?

Keeping the Arts alive and expanding has always been a challenge. It is worth every fight because the alternative, life without art, is unacceptable! Please rework your proposal and find your financial cuts elsewhere. UH is the example other higher educational institutions will most likely follow. Be a beacon and not a destroyer.

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:

Lisa Araneda

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [29368 Morning Dove Ct](#)
State / Province: Lake Elsinore, california
Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies Stop-Out

Kelsea Armstrong <kelseaga@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:29 AM

Aloha,

My name is Kelsea Armstrong. I am a new graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Political Science Department. I am writing to you to demand the immediate withdrawal of the proposed option to "stop-out" the ES BA degree.

The Mānoa Budget Team (MBT) has targeted Ethnic Studies for an option to "stop-out" the BA program, and is recommending that the department "work closely with Interdisciplinary Studied (IS) to increase enrollment." and if decreases follow, "an option is to stop-out the program and offer [ES] as a concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies." (see page 7 of the CSS recommendations).

This 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 the department continues to uphold and pass on to new generations of students.

Considering both political and historical contexts, the option to cut UH's Ethnic Studies department is tone-deaf to this moment of national racial reckoning. Targeting Ethnic Studies under the guise of pandemic-induced budget crisis is another reveal of institutional racism.

I must ask these questions directly of the Mānoa Budget Team: Can you provide evidence on how the option to "stop-out" ES will result in immediate projected savings? What is the estimated number amount that cutting ES will save?

Lastly, as a student of Political Science in the UHM's College of Social Sciences, I see this as a shared problem that threatens the future of my program as well. Sticking to the theme, it is important that I use this opportunity to voice that the Political Science Department's size and diversity is an asset, and is the highest grader of Native Hawaiian doctoral students. Our social science programs, graduate students, faculty and integrity need to be protected during these uncertain times.

We should not need to feel the bureaucratic insecurities of dissolving and shrinking during a global health crisis.

Even the option for a "stop-out" can trigger a decrease in majors, weaken the Ethnic Studies Department, and provide no short-term cost savings for the university. We must stop this complicity with systemic racism and neo-colonialism in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Kelsea Armstrong

kelseaga@hawaii.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Continue the BA in Philippine Language and Culture

Kevin Baetscher <kbaetsch@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:59 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you in support of the continuation of the BA in Philippine Language and Culture. A linguistics major myself, I conduct research in the Philippines and am well aware of the situation there. The University of Hawaii is unique in offering the breadth in courses and certification of proficiency in Philippine languages and cultures. In particular, there is no program for the study of the Ilocano language that rivals the one in Manoa. Considering the importance and value, the sheer number, of Filipinos in Hawaii, many of whom are Ilocano, this program is crucial for the cultural exchange and collaboration between Hawaii and the Philippines.

Kind regards,
Kevin Baetscher



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Written testimony against the proposed program cuts

Caroline Baicy <cbaicy@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:46 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please find my written testimony against the proposed program cuts attached.

Best regards,
Caroline Baicy

PhD Student
Modern Southeast Asian History
History Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa

cbaicy@hawaii.edu

 **Baicy_WrittenTestimony.pdf**
46K

To the Board of Regents,

My name is Caroline Rose Tacata Baicy, I am a PhD student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and I am writing to express my disappointment in the proposed program cuts, which include the MA Art History program, programs in Journalism, Social Work, Dance, Theater, and Law, among others. As I write this there are two key issues I want you to consider prior to your decision to cut programs. First are the salaries provided to a bloated administration, this information is available to the public and can be accessed here:

<https://www.uhpa.org/salary-research/executive-management-salaries/>

As of November 2019, there are over one hundred individuals paid over 100,000 dollars per year, with President David Lassner and Provost Michael Bruno receiving a yearly income of close to 400,000 dollars and 350,000 dollars respectively. While individuals on this list received a pay increase, as reported by Civil Beat in October 2019, undergraduate and graduate students continue to face houselessness and precarious living situations, which in turn affect enrolment numbers as well as a student's ability to continue their education. There needs to be a better allocation of these financial resources, since, as noted by the Civil Beat article, 1.1 million dollars was set aside specifically for these executive level pay increase. Ironically, while this money has been set aside for pay increases to various upper level administrators, the very same administration has proposed austerity measures that will actively affect the future growth of the university. In addition, it raises a series of questions, especially in relation to the audits done on the programs proposed to be cut: were these high-level managerial staff required to justify their pay and role in the University of Hawai'i systems? Were there audits on how the administration is run and possible redundancies on the UH admin? Why is the main discussion centered on

cutting smaller programs rather than asking whether or not the UH administration provided enough support to allow these programs to flourish?

Second issue emerges in the Civil Beat article written last year that discussed the issues pertaining to the diversity of the University of Hawai'i faculty available here:

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/10/most-uh-students-are-people-of-color-but-their-teachers-are-mainly-white/>

The programs that are proposed to be cut are incredibly important, especially in the context of current racial tensions in the United States in which Black Americans are executed on the streets, the rise of sex trafficking the Hawai'i, immigrant families are actively separated at the borders of the United States, and the rise of white nationalism. These programs provide a space to teach students how these issues in the United States connect to global issues, and provide a space to understand and analyze the deeper historical connections. Furthermore, these programs attract a diverse student population that the University of Hawai'i claims to celebrate. By cutting these programs, you are effectively silencing the voices of the next generation of scholars, artists, journalists, and activists, many of whom come from various nations, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds who in turn will contribute in various ways to our ongoing discussions related to race, gender, and class. With the various emails supporting anti-racist ideologies and welcoming all students, why would you cut programs that not only attract a diverse campus population, but also provide a critical space to engage with issues that directly affect the student population?

Why would you consider cutting programs that add to the diversity of the faculty at the University of Hawai'i? How can you justify silencing the next generation of artists, scholars, journalists, and activists that contribute to cross-cultural conversations within Hawai'i as well as the United States? Finally what is your justification for cutting programs that diversify the

knowledge, critical, and ethical thinking for students who are in programs that are safe from these budget cuts?

I would like to end my written testimony with my own personal connections to the academic community here at the University of Hawai'i and to one of the programs on the chopping block. In 2014, I was accepted into the MA Art History program. While I was applying to other programs, I was told by various art history programs in the continental United States that they did not have the resources nor the language program that could support my research area of interest, Philippine art history. When I entered the program here, my MA advisor, Dr. Paul Lavy, provided me with not only support in my interest but also the foundations for my passion of research, which included a toolbox of research methodologies in unpacking the complexity between nation, race, and the production of art, a critical lens to read research and primary sources, and ways in which I can move beyond the canonical tropes attributed to understanding Southeast Asian art history. As a woman of color and a first generation college graduate, a group underrepresented in the faculty of not just the University of Hawai'i, but universities in the United States as a whole, the University of Hawai'i Art History department provided me with incredible support, including scholarship and conference information, discussions on next steps in my academic career, and the push to diversify my education outside my field of interest. It is this support that I received from a department that you have proposed to cut that made me decide to continue my PhD at the very same university, albeit in a different department. But I carry with me the passion and the academic foundations that was fostered at the Art History department, which has pushed me to work at the Honolulu Museum of Art, further my language training, present my research internationally to established scholars, teach a course which is currently at capacity and received a waitlist of twenty students during registration, and to be published in a

research journal. I am, and will always be, indebted to the unending support and training that the faculty at the Art History department has provided me. This program, that you propose to cut, made me decide to stay at the University of Hawai'i and also to strive to continuously be a better student, researcher, and, hopefully, future scholar. To take that opportunity and support away from future students will in fact be detrimental to the scholarship produced by graduate students at this university and to the future of the University of Hawai'i in general. I hope that you reconsider cutting these programs and look to other avenues to ensure that the academic environment at the University of Hawai'i will continue to flourish and grow.

Regards,
Caroline Rose Tacata Baicy

PhD Student
Modern Southeast Asian History
History Department
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
cbaicy@hawaii.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Jacob Bannerman <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:05 PM

Reply-To: jacob@creederep.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: Jacob Bannerman
 Email: jacob@creederep.com
 Phone Number: (214) 4156603
 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:

Don't be the president who is remembered for killing the arts at UHM.

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:

Jacob Bannerman

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Creede

State / Province: Colorado

Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Preserve the Dance and Theater Departments

Laurie Baron <lauriebaronhnl@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:45 PM

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

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to you as the daughter of UH graduates, a UH graduate myself and the mother of a UH graduate. My Grandmother also attended UH Manoa. I feel obliged to urge you to protect its future.

Since President Eisenhower signed the act creating a center for cultural and technical exchange between East and West, the Kennedy Theater has been part of the spirit of peace and cultural sharing that informed and inspired the East West Center.

The Theater and Dance departments have earned their places in our community. They fill a need through the University as a primary institution of higher learning in the state of Hawaii. Study of the arts and humanities as part of our development as a free society.

In addition to long providing the community with extraordinary cultural events unavailable anywhere else, these departments also educate our students and prepare them for rewarding careers. Our students would otherwise not have access to those jobs or those bright futures.

Choosing to remove either or both theater or dance is a terrible waste. It would be a theft from the future of gifts that are our legacy.

It is the responsibility of this body to preserve this gift. Please do not now squander our inheritance, but let them serve us in the future as they have so well for so long. We need them no less now, but even more. With the advent of artificial intelligence eliminating so many kinds of work, creativity, meaning and beauty may in the future be rare sources of jobs that machines can not do. Please protect the Dance and Theater departments for the future.

With hope for the future,
Laurie Baron
UH Mānoa 2009

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How do you know what you know?

Board of Regents Meeting: University Funding Challenges

Paul Barthel <pbarthel@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:42 AM

Board of Regents,

As an undergraduate student I do not have access to all of the resources at your disposal, however I applaud what I hope is a sincere effort to reimagine the University system for the 21st century. Although much of the focus on this effort (at least what has been communicated to the student body) is that the University is looking at changes due to reductions in funding due to economic slowdowns affiliated with the coronavirus, I believe that this would be a significant mistake. The largest issues facing the University system is not a short term aberration in funding due to a communicable disease – instead the issues are far more fundamental. The most obvious issue facing the University system is the rise of technology in education and how the University will respond. Prior to the coronavirus shut-downs driving much of the American education system online very few people were familiar with the concept of distance learning, however since distance learning has become a reality for so many people there is a strong likelihood that many of them will not come back – much like the shift to online retail. As important as this shift to online learning is the significant demographic shift across the US, there will not be nearly as many students to fill classrooms in the future. Finally the University would be wise to realize cultural ramifications of the student debt crisis – future students will not be looking to replicate the experience of their older siblings, the accumulation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in school loans without having gained a readily marketable skillset (at the same time there is projected to be a significant demand in the skilled trades). Frankly I believe that the University system has far too much infrastructure, overhead, and institutional inertia to compete in this new reality.

Let's start with institutional inertia, honestly a great portion of our current professors and administrators do not have the ability to take full advantage of the amazing opportunities presented by online learning. We are decades into the online revolution and very few changes have been made to the presentation of classroom material – all of my classes this semester consist of watching a professor sit in their office and teach the same type of lesson they would have presented 40 years ago, the only difference is now I am watching them on a screen instead of in person. This is taking place at the same time that corporate education is making full use of the resources on the internet, home schooling is better than ever, and in many walks of life education is being provided in a dynamic fashion augmented by videos, websites, and real-time collaboration software. This new and exciting way of learning is not the future – it is reality everywhere except the University system. Unfortunately within the University system we appear wedded to outmoded models of instruction,

likely because the University system is also shackled to “tradition” as well as a tenured workforce who need significant motivation and assistance in order to provide a competitive educational product.

In the area of overhead there are real improvements that can be made, and the proposals that I have seen out of the College of Social Sciences appears to be a step in the right direction. However simply rearranging where programs are aligned within a single campus is not enough – a system wide effort must be undertaken to combine programs across all 10 Campuses and learning centers. If the board is not evaluating the method to combine colleges and departments system-wide then the board is not looking far enough ahead. Similarly an evaluation needs to be completed as to what degree granting programs are relevant for the 21st century, to some extent relevancy can be determined by enrollment, however one of the roles of the Board should be to look beyond enrollment figures and determining what types of graduates would most benefit the state.

Finally, the question of physical infrastructure need to be addressed in light of the future vision for the University System. This is the area where the traditional University System has a decided advantage over web-based competition – some subjects are simply better taught in person. Coupled with the advantage of in person learning (for certain types of coursework) is the personal maturing that comes with the college experience. These are advantages that the University can build upon, however in an environment where the University system needs to be cost competitive with online educational providers a balance needs to be struck between maintaining a large inventory of fixed infrastructure and more efficiently using the money entrusted to the University to provide education.

Although I am sure that you are fully aware of all of these issues I thought it may be beneficial to hear these issues from a student. The decisions you have to make undoubtedly are difficult, however I would like to provide some recommendations.

1) Pricing: The cost of online classes needs to be lower than the costs for attending in-person classes – outside of the University system the typical cost per college credit through an online program is 40% less expensive than the cost per credit at an in-person institution, the University system needs to adapt to this reality. Similarly costs for student fees needs to be re-evaluated for students who participate in online classes vs in person.

2) Online Program Improvement: The provision of education requires attention – there is no reason a lecture style class could not be taught by a single professor with student attendance from across the entire University system (Universities, Community Colleges, and Education Centers) – these classes could be supported by numerous non-tenured support staff to provide student interface. This would allow the University system to sub-specialize some educational professionals as experts in online education, these individuals would receive training and technical support to provide a world-class distance learning experience. This would also allow the University system to lower costs by

reducing the number of class offerings and provide a far superior distance learning experience to what is currently being offered.

3) Program Consolidation: The University system needs to consolidate programs across campuses to eliminate overhead. Historically each campus may have required organic administrative overhead however that is simply no longer the case – much of these services can be provided more efficiently and cost effectively if they are centralized. Also important to evaluate is redundancy in programs requiring in-person education between campuses – do all three University campuses need to provide the same degree programs or can these overlaps be reduced? As an example a student wanting to earn a BA in a particular subject can presently attend any one of the 3 University Campuses – instead this program can be consolidated to a single campus. Students in this discipline could complete all of their core requirements as well as the majority of their lower level coursework from anywhere in the world via distance learning (at significantly reduced cost per credit hour as identified above), and only be required to attend in-person for higher level classes where one on one integration is more integral to the course of study. For the average student the total cost for their education would remain the same (reduced costs per credit for lower level classes would offset the additional cost of relocation for the 1 or 2 semesters required for in-person education to complete their degree).

4) Understand the Reality: Finally I would challenge the Board to engage with the student body as well as to develop an appreciation for the competition – and make no mistake that as demographics shift there will be stiff competition for students willing to pay for a college degree. The information economy has given us an upcoming generation which is far different than generations in the past, however the University's educational model has not changed – why is there so much hesitancy to reach out to the student body to see what they are thinking (i.e. why no student input on the University's COVID response)? Similarly I would challenge University leadership to identify the best online learning programs (corporate education, other college programs, even home schooling programs) and identify strengths – I would also challenge University leadership to dial into a few of the online classes currently being taught across the system, I think you will be amazed at the difference.

Thank you for your attention,

Paul R Barthel

Returning Student at the University of Hawaii Manoa



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Molena Begay <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:21 PM

Reply-To: molenaabegay04@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 Molena Begay
 Email molenaabegay04@gmail.com
 Phone Number (928) 6124584
 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
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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 the president plans to do is unfair and just plain unreasonable. Please don't cut the programs just because you don't think highly of 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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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:

Molena Begay

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Shonto

State / Province: Az

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.

Katharine Beutner Beutner <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:32 AM

Reply-To: katharine.b@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 Katharine Beutner Beutner

Email katharine.b@gmail.com

Phone Number (512) 289-8904

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 former TT faculty member in English, I strongly oppose cuts to Theatre & Dance OR to Ethnic Studies. "Stop-out" proposals are a way to cut programs while pretending student interest has diminished.

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:

Katharine Beutner

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Cleveland Heights

State / Province: OH

Country: United States

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



Ending the Ethics Study Program is unacceptable.

Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:47 AM

To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

UH' s Ethics Study Program is even more important in this chaotic racist Trump era.Hawaii is a multi- cultural society.
Learning about each other leads to respect, empathy essential to a harmonious society.
Patricia Blair, Kailua
Sent from my iPad



BOR September 17, 2020 Meeting - Testimony Regarding Proposed Cuts to the Department of Theatre and Dance

Jonah Bobilin <jbobilin@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
Cc: Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:58 PM

Please find a pdf of my testimony for the upcoming BOR meeting attached to this email.

Mahalo nui,
Jonah Bobilin

 **BOR_Testimony_Bobilin.pdf**
114K

Aloha Board of Regents,

I am writing to you today in firm opposition to the following proposed cuts to the Department of the Theatre and Dance as outlined in the Summary of Budget Committee Suggestions and Unit Responses as part of the UH's planning for Post-Pandemic Hawaii:

- Stop-out the Dance degrees (BA/BFA/MA/MFA)
- Stop-out the Theatre MA
- Stop-out the Theatre PhD
- Decrease the number of concentrations in the MFA in Theatre

This movement to eliminate arts and entertainment-related degrees comes at a time when entertainment professionals around the world are unemployed. When you consider these programs expendable you add insult to economic injury. You eliminate the ability of undergraduates to continue their education at home and at a reasonable price.

I am a student from the Department of Engineering, I am not enrolled in the department of theatre and dance, however, I still feel very strongly about these proposed cuts. Much of my current professional work would not have been possible without this department and I can speak personally when I say that enrollment numbers do not always reflect the overall community impact and when I say that this department has undoubtedly impacted the community.

As an upperclassman about to graduate into an unstable and limited job market, I am, for the first time, considering going to graduate school. If I were to end up pursuing this, I would certainly think about enrolling as a graduate student in technical theatre here at UH, but if the degree no longer exists then I suppose I will have to look elsewhere. There are many students like me who are considering either continuing their education or going back to school until the economy stabilizes. This is true especially in theatre and dance since almost every professional in our country is currently out of work. Without degree programs or jobs, we may have no choice but to seek other professions.

If you ask the average American what think of when they think of theatre they will probably say the Broadway Musical. It's a staple. It's commercial. It's the business. Well, part of the Broadway Musical is dance — in-fact it's a pretty large part since most of the performers onstage aren't the one or two famous stars, they are the ensemble and dancers. Without the dance side of the department, it is impossible to train performance majors in this vital part of the industry. Furthermore, it impacts even technical MFAs who, at first glance, you might not assume would be affected.

I'm a lighting designer so I'll speak from that perspective. The way you design light for dance is completely different from the way you design it for a stage play. Even if the particular MFA concentration I might apply for in a few years does not end up being cut, I know that by choosing UH I am choosing a program that will not prepare me to work for any dance companies, operas ballets, Broadway/Vegas show, or any other dance-related area. The degree wouldn't even prepare me to work for the majority of the shows in Waikiki, which tend to be dance-heavy.

At a time when racial tensions are on everyone's minds, it is essential to remember the theatre department's world-renowned Asian theatre program. It truly is one of the best Asian-performance programs in the United States. We even have international students from Asian countries who come to this university in particular for our Asian-performance concentration graduate degrees. We also have the only Hawaiian theatre program in the world, not exactly surprising, but it is still a valid point — especially as we consider the 2015-2025 UH Mānoa Strategic Plan and the university's historic responsibility to the Native Hawaiian community.

By eliminating the MA and PhD programs and reducing the MFA concentrations you are specifically extinguishing one of the only opportunities people have to study the arts with a Hawaiian influence in higher education. Depending on the MFA concentrations that are ultimately eliminated you are potentially removing *all* opportunities to study performance arts in Hawaii with a Hawaiian focus. I think that most residents of Hawaii — and probably even mainlanders — would agree that Hula is an essential component of our local culture.

At the risk of stating the obvious, Hula is a form of dance. Dance at UH is often concerned with Hula and other Oceanic dance forms even though we might often think of them as more associated with the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies. Last fall semester, I had the privilege to work on a PhD candidate's dance show which focused specifically on colonialism as well as queer identity and environmentalism. By framing these cuts within a western perspective, we fail to appreciate the important intersection of the arts and cultural practices. Furthermore, we fail to recognize the reality that to sweepingly cut at the arts is to levy an attack on culture itself.

If we expand our understanding of education outside of a colonial framing, it quickly becomes clear that to eliminate all dance degrees at UH is to implicitly delegitimize Hula as a dance form worth studying academically. Doing so undermines the scholastic seriousness with which UH students approach dance in Oceania. Doing so further contributes to the exploitation of Hawaiiana as a frivolous entertainment commodity rather than a source of valuable cultural knowledge. And doing so would only further align this university's future with the state's colonial past.

If the university is hoping to repair its currently strained relationship with the local indigenous community, then this is the wrong way to do it. In 2019, UH's most popular show was the Hanakeeka (Hawaiian-language theatre) show *'Au'a 'Ia: Holding On*; a show that was invited to open a New York theatre festival. And while commercial popularity is important, it is not to mention the vital work that our Hanakeeka program has done for the revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawaii. I wrote a term paper on this very subject last fall and will be more than happy to share it with any board members who need more convincing.

If there are no graduate opportunities (or there are significantly reduced opportunities) then you are, in essence, signing the death warrant of the Hawaiian theatre program. When Kumu Haili'opua Baker retires who will continue her work? Without a graduate program, there will be no one. Students will be forced to seek degrees outside of the country, erasing all the

progress that has been made diversifying the arts at UH, and turning back the clock to where we were 25 years ago.

More significantly, it will unintentionally assert that the attitude of this university toward the Hawaiian people is that of a performative ally. How can this university call itself a “Hawaiian place of learning” while undercutting the ability of students to learn anything Hawaiian?

One of the points raised in this proposal was the number of concentrations in the department’s MFA program. If you are only studying Western theatre (like countless other American universities) then it goes without saying that you will have fewer concentrations. No Asian or indigenous side of the department means that you won’t have either of those areas as a concentration, but that doesn’t mean it is a good thing.

The department is designed to be modular. The shows for each area of concentration work on a rotation (with some areas that are always relevant). PhD candidate in puppetry doesn’t need every show to have puppets to complete their degree. Likewise, a faculty member hired to teach the puppetry concentration won’t *only* be doing that. They might also be teaching in the TYA and the TVYA concentrations or doing a physical comedy class as part of the western performance concentration. In-fact that situation isn’t hypothetical, I’ve literally just described the duties of one of the faculty members in the department. Many professors support multiple concentrations thereby attracting a broader diversity of students to the university.

Graduate work in theatre, as is the nature of theatre, is collaborative and multidisciplinary. Students in their respective concentrations may be writing theses in particular areas of interest, but still share much of the same general coursework. On paper, at a cursory glance, it might look like due to low enrollment every candidate is in a separate room with an individual professor, which I agree would be absurd.

But that’s not the reality.

The reality is that student actors, directors, designers, and those focusing in other areas might all be enrolled in the same costuming professor's class, even if it's not specific to their focus. A significant portion of specialized coursework for MFA and PhD students is practical. That's how higher education and fine arts degrees are supposed to work. Sure, there are some specialized classes, that goes without saying, but if many students outside of that particular area are also taking the class in order to broaden their understanding (and also contribute to their own elective requirements) then it's really not that large of a problem. The program is interconnected and sustainable; specialized classes contribute to everyone's education.

After all, it's not like everyone in puppets is just twiddling their thumbs wasting university money until a show with puppets comes along. Most shows don't have puppets. Concentrations are focused on when relevant. They are studied empirically on a rotation through produced shows. Simply axing concentrations won't necessarily cut costs.

This brings me to my final point, which is that I do not see how any of these proposed cuts will actually help the university financially, in the short-term, in a significant way. At this point, the university claims it has no immediate plans for faculty retrenchment. That is what would cut costs quickly. If that's not the point of the cuts then I fail to understand the rationalization for these proposals.

The justification for this entire reorganization initiative is the short-term economic benefit, which I acknowledge is important given the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic. I understand that some cuts will be necessary. I'm aware that some MFA concentrations do have low enrollment and should perhaps be consolidated. I don't disagree with the critique that the department's faculty to student ratio is too high. However, some of the proposed actions (like full out eliminating dance) will do little to solve the underlying structural problems within the department and will only exacerbate students' ability to get a quality education in an already uncertain time.

And realistically, how much is expected to be saved in the next few years by these measures? A few dean's salaries. That's paltry. It's insignificant within the context of the overall university budget, especially compared to the 4.3-million-dollar deficit caused by the athletics budget (in the 2018-19 academic year), yet athletics seems to be facing no drastic cuts due to the COVID-19 situation. I urge the university to be transparent about exactly how much money these changes are expected to save. Trifling budgetary benefits don't outweigh the serious artistic and cultural costs. They do not outweigh the lineages of tradition that will come to a stop.

If the university administration is only using the pandemic as justification for changes that they have already planned, then it is a dishonest neoliberal approach to academic governance and it is insulting to the artists that study here. I sincerely hope that is not the intention.

The department of theatre and dance has managed to produce award-winning shows in the past decades even as funding has been continually cut. I implore the university not to make it more difficult for the laborers in the entertainment industry especially at a time when we are all already experiencing financial instability and sweeping unemployment.

Mahalo for reading my testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonah Bobilin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonah Bobilin

An undergraduate student in electrical engineering and stage lighting designer.



Ethnic studies

Daniel Bogdan <dbogdan@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:17 PM

My name is Dan Bogdan. I am writing to you to demand the immediate withdrawal of the proposed option to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies BA degree at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The Mānoa Budget Team (MBT) has targeted Ethnic Studies for an option to "stop-out" the BA program, and is recommending that the department "work closely with Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) to increase enrollment." and if decreases follow, "an option is to stop-out the program and offer [ES] as a concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies." (see page 7 of the CSS recommendations).

This 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 the department continues to uphold and pass on to new generations of students.

Considering both political and historical contexts, the option to cut UH's Ethnic Studies department is tone-deaf to this moment of national racial reckoning. Targeting Ethnic Studies under the guise of a pandemic-induced budget crisis is yet another reveal of institutional racism.

The Ethnic Studies Department at UHM has long stranded for the rights and voices of those who have been historically swept asunder by the hegemonic powers of western history. Their field of work is specifically important in our day and time due to the national exposure of the realities of the threats to minority lives and livelihoods. They are at the least a symbol of the respect for that struggle and at most an important part of dismantling the disparity at its core by creating a knowledge system to draw from. As a university in Hawaii I would imagine this is extremely poignant to you and I hope you take this decision seriously and furthermore reject this proposal.

I must ask these questions directly of the Mānoa Budget Team: Can you provide evidence on how the option to "stop-out" ES will result in immediate projected savings? What is the estimated number amount that cutting ES will save?

Lastly, this is a shared problem that threatens the futures of other programs within the College of Social Sciences. Sticking to the theme, it is important that I use this opportunity to voice that one of the most secure departments of this college feels the power of the same threat. The Political Science Department's size and diversity is an asset, and it is the highest graduater of Native Hawaiian doctoral students. All of our social science programs, graduate students, faculty and integrity need to be protected during these uncertain times.

We should not need to feel the bureaucratic insecurities of dissolving and shrinking during a global health crisis. Even the option for a "stop-out" can trigger a decrease in majors, weaken the Ethnic Studies Department, and provide no short-term cost savings for the university.

We must stop this complicit act of systemic racism and neo-colonialism in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Dan bogdan

Sent from my iPhone



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Jennifer Butler <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:29 AM

Reply-To: convergencedance@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 Butler
 Email convergencedance@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 5429442
 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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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 received my MFA in dance at UH. As a student in the program I was profoundly influenced by the quality dance training and the opportunity to study and perform several Asian dances. This is a unique program, offering artistic and cultural studies in Asian, Polynesian, and Western dance forms. My studies at UH prepared me to work as a professional dance artist and teacher.

Since leaving UH, I have run a local modern dance company. I am artistic director of Convergence Dance Theatre, a non-profit community dance group. We have performed all of the island and worked with various community groups on important local topics. After my MFA I was hired for a dance lecturer position at KCC. I was proud to be able to prepare students for dance studies at UH after they finished KCC and transferred. In addition, I owned a local dance studio for 5 years. All of this was made possible by the training, study, and networks I made while a MFA student 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.

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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:

Jennifer Butler

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: San Diego
State / Province: CA
Country: United States

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



Remove proposal to "stop-out" of Philippine Language and Culture BA

Ellen Cachola <ellenrae@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:32 PM

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

Cc: Nadezna Ortega <nadezna@hawaii.edu>, Dean Domingo <deand@hawaii.edu>

Dear Board of Regents,

Please remove the proposal to "stop-out" the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and the re-organization of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL) into a non-degree granting "Center."

This attack on Philippine languages is a disservice to the Filipinos of Hawai'i, who are the second largest ethnic group in these islands. The ability to access and study Philippine language, history and culture at this University is very important for the empowerment of Filipinos.

Filipinos have migrated to Hawai'i because of a history of colonization which is tied to the history of Native Hawaiian's colonization. The Philippines is currently under dire political-economic stress and it is crucial to maintain Hawaii-based Filipino people's capacity to remember, learn, connect and help our communities back in the Philippines.

Filipinos migrate to Hawaii and become part of the working class. Assimilating into the dominant economic culture has been the survival mechanism of our community. But that is why we need the Philippine language and literature program BA to help undergraduate Filipinos access the history and languages of the Philippines so they can speak to their parents and relatives.

This is the benefit I gained from the Philippine Language program, particularly the Ilocano Language Acquisition and Immersion for the New Generation (iLAING). This community based language program, led by UH Manoa's Ilocano language professors and community leaders, has helped me improve my first language, Ilocano. I was born in Hawai'i, but when I went through the public school system, dominated by English, I slowly lost fluency. But the chance to benefit from the Ilocano language department's community based program helped me to understand, appreciate, and speak to my parents and relatives back in the Philippines, in our Native language. I am able to understand their decisions and situations, and reverse the patterns of disconnection to my culture and family's hometown issues.

I have also taken Philippine history classes in my undergraduate years. These classes opened my eyes to my own history and identity. Growing up as a Filipina in Hawai'i, I learned nothing of my history and identity within Hawai'i's K-12 DOE education. To threaten to stop-out this program at the University of Hawai'i is devastating and detrimental to the mental health and cultural human rights of Filipinos in Hawai'i, particularly its young people. Filipinos have contributed so much to the social and economic justice in Hawai'i, as workers who organized against the plantation oligarchy. Yet, to witness the University diminish our access to our history and culture is disrespectful to the contributions of the Filipino people who helped to improve the quality of life of everyone in these islands.

Please remove the proposal to "stop out" the Philippine Languages and Literatures and do not re-organize the Department of IPLL into a non-degree "Center."

Instead, please fund and support these programs to the fullest extent, because the University must be relevant to the 2nd largest ethnic group in Hawai'i. If you seek to be a University that deals with the post-covid economy, you must fully support the growth of educational programs like Philippine Languages and Literatures and the Department of IPLL, in order to empower this population to be active and informed participants of our islands' recovery.

Sincerely,

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

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kimo.jpg
2K



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

Timothy Callais <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:47 PM

Reply-To: timothycallais.mfa@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 Timothy Callais
 Email timothycallais.mfa@gmail.com
 Phone Number (985) 2098517
 Date 06-25-1986
 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:

If you think the arts are unimportant to society, please kindly delete your Netflix accounts. To whom are we all turning for comfort and distraction from the world during this historically low point and uncertain times? The life work of actors. Of directors. Writers. Producers. Musicians. Designers. How many of you took in a movie on your first date with your spouse? Or maybe it was a

concert? Perhaps it was dinner and the jazz band played the song that night that ultimately became YOUR song! Our bodies allow us to dance before it allows us to put a comprehensive thought together. We sing before we can even express words. And in a world where people and human relationships are being lost to electronics, it is the actors who are still willing to be present in the grief of society. Please don't take away 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.

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:

Timothy Callais

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1513 Tulane Dr.](#)
State / Province: Davis, 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.

Sherri Caneda <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 7:59 AM

Reply-To: sherricaneda@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 Sherri Caneda
 Email sherricaneda@yahoo.com
 Phone Number (808) 6397336
 Date 07-02-1976
 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 is an incredible program especially the Hawaiian theatre it's amazing and needs to be kept. Their shows are sold out that Dr Tammy Hailiopua Baker put on they make a statement they share our history and needs to be continued. Aloha

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:

Sherri Caneda

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: Kapaa

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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

Dayna Chun <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 7:43 AM

Reply-To: daynachun604@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 Dayna Chun
Email daynachun604@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 3984712
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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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf
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Please add your additional comments:

This program has been an essential part of my education and growth as an artist. Hawaii is already struggling to keep art thriving and it would be a terrible mistake to 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:

Dayna Chun

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

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.

Nana Clemons <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:07 PM

Reply-To: clemonsn@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 Nana Clemons
 Email clemonsn@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 2657766
 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
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Please add your additional comments:

It is important to respect the autonomy of the Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies Department. I strongly oppose the merging of the 2 departments into "interdisciplinary studies." With the current political climate and racial tensions in the United States, Ethnic Studies MUST remain its own, independent 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.

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Signature



Name:

Nana Clemons

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.

Mary Corral <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:27 PM

Reply-To: corralml@sutterhealth.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, 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 Mary Corral
 Email corralml@sutterhealth.org
 Phone Number (916) 410-2611
 Date 07-06-1953
 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: Don't let the Pandemic take away they're rights, let DANCE be the expression of who they are.

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:

Mary Corral

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [6044 Via Casitas](#)
State / Province: Carmichael
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.

Sophia Cruise <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:45 PM

Reply-To: scruise@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 Sophia Cruise
 Email scruise@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (503) 8069190
 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
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Please add your additional comments: The arts in general are extremely important to the community. They can improve mental health and general welfare.

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:

Sophia Cruise

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: Honolulu

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.

Liy Crumpton <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:44 AM

Reply-To: brennick@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: Liy Crumpton
 Email: brennick@gmail.com
 Phone Number: (808) 3307816
 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:

It is unfortunate that UH falls to the stereotype of cutting the arts first when needing to "save money". Educational institutions have been doing this for decades and shame on you for falling in line with this thinking. I was under the impression UH Manoa was a space for higher learning, which would equate to higher thinking and in turn would do better in action. You may not understand what you

have here, so I will let you know.

As a graduate of this department, I am grateful for my experience and opportunity this program provided me. I chose this program because there are only two, 2, in the country, and UH Manoa was the only one that offers the hands on experience. The practical knowledge I gained from that program gave me the tools I needed to do my job in the field. Since graduation, 2007, I have been working successfully as a teaching artist and as the Assistant Director of Drama Education for Honolulu Theatre for Youth, in this very community that educated me. Isn't that why you create a strong educational program at a higher level? You want to build a community that believes in fostering learning and growth.

UHM's Theatre and Dance department is irreplaceable.

This department is the only one in the United States that offers this level of Asian Theatre art forms, and that is important. Anyone can learn Shakespeare at any University, but only in this department will you have to chance to learn about, experience or perform Jing Ju, Kabuki or Wayang kulit. This kind of opportunity is priceless to people, like myself, who knew nothing of these arts and in my time I was able to open my western lens to all the beauty that lives in all these art forms.

Representation matters, giving space to other voices matter and this department is a space for those voices. Helping people understand each other, matters. When you think about cutting this program, that is what you are cutting. You are taking away voices, you are taking away representation and that is shameful. I strongly urge you to rethink this decision.

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:

Lily Crumpton

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.



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

Cari Cunningham <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:49 AM

Reply-To: caric@unr.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 Cari Cunningham
 Email caric@unr.edu
 Phone Number (775) 8579935
 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:

As a faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno, another WUE institution, I am deeply troubled by the proposed elimination of the dance program at UH with its highly regarded bachelors and masters program. Making the opportunity to study dance, both the rich cultural dance forms of Hawaii and other dance practices, as an academic pursuit unavailable to your students is, at the

very least, short-sighted and, worse, it paints your institution as deeply insensitive to the social justice issues that plague our country. I was present in March 2018 when a student from your program performed a Tahitian Dance solo at the American College Dance Association regional festival held in Arizona. It was not only an expertly danced piece, but a moving tribute to a dance legacy that has survived in large part because of the dedication of your dance faculty. It was a powerful reminder to the dance educators in attendance of the critical need to decolonize the institution of higher education and re-examine our prioritization of historical and cultural dance forms that have been marginalized and appropriated. Cutting this program suggests a lack of commitment by UH to honor this critical need at a time when it is drawing much warranted attention.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this drastic action and to preserve the rich artistic heritage and embodied culture of your institution.

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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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:

Cari Cunningham

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Reno
State / Province: NV
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.

Noah Denker <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM

Reply-To: denkernoah@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, 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: Noah Denker
 Email: denkernoah@gmail.com
 Phone Number: (503) 8664056
 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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-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 arts are an important and vital addition to all universities. Students must be able to pursue all of their interests, not subject them to limited options.

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:

Noah Denker

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Corvallis

State / Province: Oregon

Country: United States

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



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Letter in support of retaining graduate program in microbiology

Desmond, Edward <edward.desmond@doh.hawaii.gov>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:49 PM

Edward P. Desmond, Ph.D., D (ABMM)

State Laboratories Administrator

Department of Health

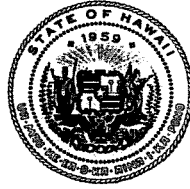
2725 Waimano Home Road

Pearl City, HI 96782



Microbiology support letter BOR Desmond.pdf
57K

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE LABORATORIES DIVISION (SLD)
2725 WAIMANO HOME ROAD
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782-1496

In reply, please refer to:
File: SLD/Admin

TO: UH Board of Regents

RE: Recommendations for “Stopping out” the Microbiology graduate program

I am writing to express my concern about recommendations coming from UH Mānoa Provost Bruno on September 11th, 2020 and reports from the media.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/09/uh-manoa-may-cut-theater-journalism-social-work-programs/>

Specifically, I believe that the recommendation to “stop out” Microbiology graduate program, the only such program in the state is shortsighted and detrimental to Hawaii. As State Laboratories Administrator and a microbiologist, I can testify how essential is to nurture this kind of program for the benefit of our citizens. From my perspective, graduates with advanced degrees in microbiology are needed to serve in the medical laboratories and public health laboratory in Hawaii. If the graduate program in microbiology is “stopped out”, there will be no local source for qualified microbiologists in these fields. In order to maintain medical and public health laboratories in the State, it will be necessary to recruit and retain microbiologists from out of State.

Well qualified individuals are also required for teaching in medical schools and schools for related health professions such as nursing, dental school, as well as undergraduates.

Experience has taught us that for professional fields which have no in-state educational pathway suffer from staffing shortages.

When Microbiology students graduate with PhDs and MS degrees, they move on to have careers in academia, industry, and, importantly, state agencies such as the Department of Health.

In conclusion, the Microbiology Graduate program in the School of Life Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, should be supported to grow and prosper and NOT shut down. I am in a strong opposition to this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Desmond, Ph.D.
State Laboratories Administrator
Department of Health



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

invest in our community: preserve ES BA degree.

pete doktor <dok@riseup.net>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:50 PM

2168A Maha Place
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96819
September 15, 2020

Attn: Board of Regents

University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

Subject: immediately withdraw the proposed option to "stop-out" the ES BA degree.

Aloha To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing as a graduate alumni of UH in general support for ES in the system, and oppose the "stop-out" of the Ethnic Studies BA degree.

I chose to seek my MEd at UH-Mānoa because of my interest in a particular program that claimed was offered for graduate students in the 1990s. Unfortunately, the program information was false and misleading, and it turned out that they did not have the program I wanted, but I was already invested in a degree from UH. When I look at the expanded options with ES, I envy the students of today that can pull from expanded options within ES prior to Covid-19.

I eventually completed my program and began a career as a DOE social science educator. I can attest the gap in knowledge and quality between older teachers who never had such ES options in their times, and younger teachers that had some ES background. These latter teachers were/are superior to standard public education that often alienates students from their subject of study. Teachers with ES experience make for much more compelling social science teachers, and transform youth who hate history classes, to ones that experience the power of education in the process of self-development and social awareness required for critical thinking skills and a natural interest for learning.

It is disheartening to this proposal to cut such vital programs -- I ask your reconsideration, thank you.

Ē Mālama Pono,

Pete Doktor

C/O 2005

Education Foundations, School of Education



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Michelle Duke <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:09 AM

Reply-To: mduke2@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 Duke
 Email mduke2@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (916) 8427595
 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
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Please add your additional comments:

When I was a student at UH I chose to take dance classes to help not only my mental health but also to learn about dance history of various cultures. Please reconsider cutting this major.

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:

Michelle Duke

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

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.

Amber Eckart <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:45 AM

Reply-To: a_villegas2005@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 Amber Eckart
 Email a_villegas2005@yahoo.com
 Phone Number (808) 7799390
 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
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Please add your additional comments:

I was not an actor but I benefited from the uh theater program in many ways. After I took beginner stage craft I stayed on as a college student worker for the time I was at LCC. I met many amazing artists, worked along side then learning so many crafts. I also had the chance to learn minor trade skills with tools. I have held these skills in high value. As a now home owner I have bought my

own set of power tools and hand tools. I just got done replacing trim and siding. I have built a ladder for my kids bunk bed. I built a wall desk for my sons distance learning. I would never have been confident enough without my stage craft base taught by my amazing professor and boss Don Raney. Theater was magical as a child going to plays in elementary school at LCC. Even my kids came home wide eyed from their first experience recently. I truly hope we do not cut out the fun in a time when we really need goodwill and whimsy. Please keep the theater program it does much more than provide an Outlet to entertainers.

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.

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:

Amber Eckart

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [87-161 Kulahelela Pl.](#)

State / Province: Waianae

Country: United States

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



Testimony in Support of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program

Almond Jaye Ereno <ajereno@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:33 PM

To whom it may concern,

Attached is my written testimony in support of the Ilokano and Tagalog programs at UH-Manoa.

Thanks,
Almond Jaye Ereno, RN, MSN



Testimony in Support of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program at UH-Manoa.docx
13K

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Almond Jaye Ereno and I double majored in the Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Language and Literature with Ilokano concentration and Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduating in Fall 2012. I am writing this testimony in opposition of removing or cutting funding to the Philippine Language and Literature programs in both Ilokano and Tagalog. Obtaining my Ilokano degree has been important to me because it has opened many doors and possibilities in my career as an educator and as a nurse. The BA degree in Ilokano not only perfectly complemented my skill set and strengths as a nurse, it has broadened my understanding of the world and deepened my appreciation of my own culture and language. The tools and skills I have learned from the program has helped me in many ways. Some examples of the ways I have used my BA degree are; translating professional healthcare documents, teaching and cultivating the language in high school and in various educational/professional settings, interpreting for my patients and their family members through complex medical procedures, caring for my patients holistically whether it be in the hospital or in the community setting, and finally being able to write bilingual poems and children's stories in my native tongue that I am now in the cusp of publishing.

We all know that the State of Hawaii has a diverse population. A majority of its Filipino population speak multiple Philippine languages and a majority have Ilokano as their mother tongue. Sustaining and supporting the growth of the Filipino program helps our local population by being able to have college graduates that are more culturally aware of that distinction. I use Ilokano every day in my professional setting at Queen's Medical Center. By getting my degree in Ilokano, I am able to tailor the register of my Ilokano language to better serve my patients and the community. Every language matters, and I hope that by writing this, the university reconsiders its intent of removing or cutting funding to these programs. Your time in reading my testimony is much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Almond Jaye Ereno, RN, MSN



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Andres Salazar Estrada <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:55 AM

Reply-To: aese@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 Andres Salazar Estrada

Email aese@hawaii.edu

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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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:

Personally, I think cutting programs in a public university is a disservice to the local community as a whole: students, faculty, and staff, as well as the island of O'ahu which has its biggest campus in Mānoa.

Maybe you should consider cutting exorbitant salaries among faculty and administrators before cutting services to 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:

Andres Salazar Estrada

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.

Todd Farley <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: toddsfarley@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 Todd Farley
 Email toddsfarley@gmail.com
 Phone Number (626) 4754543
 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:

I graduated with my MFA in Directing (TYA) with a focus on Hawaiian Theatre. This program is unique in the world of theatre studies as it offers a perspective and theory that includes Oceania. It is why I came to UHM and is why serious theatre students from around the world would choose UHM over other world-class Universities. This

remains a vital and vibrant connection that should not be lost due to funding cuts.

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:

Todd Farley

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 III

Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:49 PM

Aloha mai kakaou. As Associate Chair of Dance in the Dept. of Theatre and Dance, and am here in support of our Department, and voice strong opposition to the proposed stopping-out of degrees.

Dance and Theatre uniquely engage students in creative problem solving. They cultivate self-awareness, instill confidence, and promote physical health and well-being. They develop the whole person.

These are qualities we all recognize and value as necessary for student success and assist our students to participate in a world that demands they adapt and think on their feet.

Hawai'i embodies a culture of performance. A Hawaiian place of learning certainly should have options for its students to explore and develop performance and presentation skills.

Hawai'i trusted the preservation of its culture to dance and performance. It is difficult to imagine a Hawaiian place of learning that doesn't honor dance in all its forms.

Bedrock to the UHM Dance education is experience in multiple dance forms from Hawai'i, Asia, and the Pacific. The physical experience of dancing these forms brings a unique depth of cultural awareness and compassion.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of UHM Dance graduates.

Our graduates run many small businesses. They own, operate, and teach in dance schools, hula halau. They manage and perform in dance companies throughout the state. Our graduates teach in K-12 statewide and in the community colleges. They founded and teach in dance programs at Mid-Pac, Iolani, and Kamehameha. Our graduates judge at Merrie Monarch and participate as kumu and as dancers.

UHM Dance graduates are active in Arts Administration and run Arts foundations. Our graduates work, vote, and pay taxes in Hawai'i.

Many of our graduates go into other fields, and all report that their UHM Dance education gave them the skills necessary to advance in their careers.

Kennedy Theatre is the public face of the university, next to Athletics. Students in all our degree tracks participate in Kennedy Theatre productions that are integral to campus and community cultural life.

You have heard from many of our passionate students and alumni—some 3,000 pages of testimony. Many of our students made the biggest decision of their lives thus far in deciding to come to UHM for their degrees in Dance and in Theatre. The proposed stop-outs would impede curriculum delivery if course minimums are not met, which be the case without incoming students. Students and alumni are worried that their degrees will be less valuable from a stopped-out program. We must not let them down.

Stopping out our degrees fails to make practical sense. UHM Dance is a small program. We simply do not cost very much especially considering the returns on the investment.

There is a bright future for Theatre and Dance at the UHM. We are revamping curriculum to establish a stronger foundation in hula, indigenous studies, critical race theory, and technology.

We are obtaining extramural funding for these endeavors. We are becoming a more fully integrated department.

I respectfully ask you consider the magnitude of this decision, and sincerely consider the total losses we may face.

Thank you for your time. I am available to answer any questions.

Dr. Betsy Fisher

Associate Chair, Graduate Chair, Dance

Professor of Dance

Dept. of Theatre and Dance

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

808.956.9626

efisher@hawaii.edu



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

Cheryl Flaharty <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:07 PM

Reply-To: cflaharty@iona360.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 Cheryl Flaharty

Email cflaharty@iona360.com

Phone Number (808) 3835149

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
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Please add your additional comments:

I am a graduate of the UH Dance program and have made my living as a dance company Artistic Director for 30+ years now. My company, IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre has been instrumental in providing dance training, income, and opportunities to nearly 100 local dancers and collaborating artists over the years. IONA has also spawned at least 10 other dance companies in

Hawaii and abroad.

The UH dance program is the main avenue for dancers to discover and launch their careers, like I did, and in fact many of my company members have come out of this program. Please keep funding this program! Dance is vital to a community's physical and emotional well being!

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:

Cheryl Flaharty

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [130 Ulupa St. Kailua](#),
State / Province: HI 96734
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.

Bonnie Fox <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:37 AM

Reply-To: foxbonni@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 Bonnie Fox
Email foxbonni@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 2006213
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
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Please add your additional comments:

Additionally I also oppose similar proposed cuts to the Womens Studies, Ethnic Studies, Ilocano, and other programs that greatly enrich the university environment and make UHM the place it is, a place of mutual learning and understanding from multiple perspectives. The cuts to programs that enrich us culturally as a community do not send a message that UHM actually cares about its

community members. It rather indicates that UH has no material interest in real investment in our diverse communities. Please reconsider cuts to programs that send the wrong message about where our priorities lie.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Bonnie Fox

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [1811 East-West Rd](#)

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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

Lili Frazier <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:15 AM

Reply-To: lilzfraz@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 Lili Frazier
Email lilzfraz@gmail.com
Phone Number (415) 7676448
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
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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.

Please add your additional comments: The arts are so important for students to become well rounded individuals as well as an amazing form of expression.

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.

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 Frazier

Address

City: [13579 Idaho Maryland Rd](#)
State / Province: Nevada City
Country: United States

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



Opposition to "stop out" Ethnic Studies

Antoinette Freitas <konia808@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:00 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: "Ty P. Kawika Tengan" <kawikatengan@gmail.com>, Kekuewa Kikiloi <kikiloi@hawaii.edu>

University of Hawaii Regents,

I am writing in opposition to the Manoa budget committee's recommendation to "stop out" Ethnic Studies BA program.

My testimony is provided as an attachment to this email.

Sincerely,

Konia Freitas, PhD

[Konia Freitas](#)

[99-1040 Puumakani Street Unit A](#)

[Aiea, HI 96701](#)

[Email: konia808@gmail.com](mailto:konia808@gmail.com)



BOR testimony 9.15.2020.pdf

104K

September 14, 2020

RE: OPPOSITION TO "STOP OUT" ETHNIC STUDIES BA PROGRAM

Regents of the University of Hawai'i,

It is shocking to learn that the Mānoa Budget Team recommends writing off the Ethnic Studies (ES) BA program. I am in strong opposition to this recommendation. Withdraw the proposed option and abandon any idea that suggests that ES work with Interdisciplinary Studies to prove they deserve to exist at the University of Hawai'i.

As background, I work in Hawaiian Studies and served as its former Director. My aloha the ES department is in part due to receiving a GA under Prof. Marion Kelly. Often cited as an activist scholar, to me, Prof. Kelly was a scholar of the people. Her life's work exposed the ways and means by which Hawaiian people were misrepresented in academics. Her history and knowledge of labor in Hawai'i among other things keep that important part of Hawaii's history relevant to our contemporary understanding of local land use, labor, and economics. By this work, she influenced countless students such as myself to learn the hard truths about Hawai'i nei and know with confidence that Hawaiians and other ethnicities who settled in our islands deserve funding, positions, and degree-granting programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As the UH takes on an increasing business mentality it has become conveniently blind to its own history of underfunding and shunning "studies" programs. Programs such as Ethnic Studies and Hawaiian Studies have always had to fight to stay alive since the very beginning. For example, in 1977, Prof. Kiyoshi Ikeda, Chairman of the Chancellors Committee on the Hawaiian Studies Project (that was tasked to examine the establishment of a BA degree in Hawaiian Studies) noted that ". . . a community and University commitment to developing the best faculty and approach to Hawaiian Studies has often involved denigration, insult, and conflict with the powers-that-be, the parties may change but the challenges remain."

At this critical juncture in history, during a global pandemic, racially fueled public violence in the US, and growing inequality between rich and poor, the UHM budget committee is suggesting to "stop-out" the Ethnic Studies BA? **ES grew out of the very context we find ourselves in today**, that is, the national civil rights, anti-war and student movements and the Hawai'i anti-eviction, land, labor, and sovereignty movements. The ES department deserves a formative role in guiding our island society to an equitable, sustainable, and resilient future. You must reinforce this now more than ever -- do not abandon course.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Komx Frutas



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Women's Studies and Budget Cut Proposal

Melanie Fujii <fujiimel@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
Cc: L Saraswati <luhp@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:52 PM

Hello Board of Regents,

My name is Melanie Fujii, I am currently a senior undergraduate at UHM double majoring in Psychology and Women's Studies. Women's Studies at UHM has and continues to provide me with invaluable skills needed to critically analyze women's lives across contexts. Considering the times of the BLM movement and the coronavirus pandemic, it is especially important to address the interplay of race, gender, class and more to build an equitable society.

I request that you please remove Women's Studies from the post-COVID proposal of budget cuts. The Women's Studies curriculum provides crucial context for the increasing burdens affecting women and girls including domestic and caretaking work, spikes in domestic violence, and job losses. I believe that the work of Women's Studies should be amplified in times like these, not undermined or disregarded.

In addition, Ethnic Studies is too a crucial field of study. The program provides scholarly history, tradition, and representation relevant to our diverse student population and state. Especially in current times, these fields of study should be valued if UHM should truly value "diversity", equity, social justice and innovation.

Sincerely,

Melanie Fujii



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Elizabeth Gannaway <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:04 PM

Reply-To: hineni3@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 Elizabeth Gannaway
 Email hineni3@gmail.com
 Phone Number (757) 6928321
 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
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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 reconsider the violence against the arts and access to sacred knowledge you are planning to enact. The Theatre and Dance Department here at UHM is like none else in the world. I would not have moved half way across the world if it was not unique and perfect for my educational aspirations. Students are entitled to an education in the performing arts. They are highly valuable

and crucial in our society. Remove the arts and watch a community crumble.

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:

Elizabeth Gannaway

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.

Coty George <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:49 PM

Reply-To: cotyish@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	Coty George
Email	cotyish@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2281987
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
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Please add your additional comments:

I am a healthcare provider at a community health center and I cannot begin to tell you what an impact my experiences in UHM theatre and dance have had on developing my ability to build rapport and offer guidance to my patients. Much of my will to continue to work (no less survive) in the midst of this pandemic is owed in great part to the arts. I have honed my knowledge and

love for musical theatre during my brief tenure as a performer with the Earle Earnst Lab Theatre at UHM and it continues to serve me in my recent involvement in virtual performances. It has also helped me improve my speech and communication skills, which I use daily when diagnosing and treating patients (especially ones suffering from COVID-19). With the dwindling content of reality shows as the pandemic rages on, we all turn to entertainment and performance art as an escape and sometimes as a means of making sense of this unprecedented time. Cutting these programs will only cause more unrest for generations to 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:

Coty George

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Ewa Beach

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.

Sarah Gibson <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:25 AM

Reply-To: afewpennies@yahoo.comTo: 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 Sarah Gibson

Email afewpennies@yahoo.com

Phone Number (423) 3151164

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
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Please add your additional comments: The arts are indispensable.

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:

Sarah Gibson

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

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

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

Will Giles <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:21 AM

Reply-To: wangiles@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 Will Giles
Email wangiles@icloud.com
Phone Number (808) 780-4876
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
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Please add your additional comments:

I am an alumni of UH Manoa, and this is shameful, cowardly behavior. I am so ashamed that you would immediately reduce these programs, and use this pandemic as an excuse to erode the Ethnic Studies programs that make the campus a community and responsible house of learning in Hawai'i.

Please also consider resigning, as you are a disappointment, and one might even say, a parasite: robbing UH Manoa of competent, invested leadership.

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:

William Giles

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1136 Wainiha Street](#)

State / Province: [Hawaii](#)

Country: [United States](#)

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Kathy Uilani Goods <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:57 AM

Reply-To: uigoods@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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 Email uigoods@gmail.com
 Date 09-15-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
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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: Haven't you done enough to strip Hawai'i of Hawai'i. So much damage to culture under your watch. Story telling (the arts) is Hawaiian. The University of HAWAII needs to be Hawai'i.

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:

Kathy Uilani Goods

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Kaneohe

State / Province: Hawaii

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies BA "Stop-out" Testimony

Jocelyn Grandinetti <jwgrand3@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:58 PM

Aloha kākou,

I am writing as a concerned undergraduate student at UH Mānoa to urge the Board of Regents to reconsider this proposed "stop-out" of the Ethnic Studies BA program. Housing the Center of Oral History, ACCESS, as well as countless other important initiatives, this department is a necessary gateway through which students are given access to knowledge systems, cultural values, as well as like-minded people that stress the extreme import of the world's wide wealth of ethnic groups. Although many may not consider the study of "ethnic groups" to be of great value, this dismissive attitude is exactly why this department is so important: it broadens student's perspectives of the world past the restrictive norms of the status quo, while inclusively considering alternatives proposed by other cultures and attempting to protect their agency as dignified peoples.

Although I am not in the department myself, I understand that this department represents a knowledge and community base of extreme importance in an institution that strives to be a Hawaiian place of learning and that *needs* to be more inclusive with its institutional focuses. Having grown up here my whole life with an extremely limited grasp on native Hawaiian culture--the indigenous culture of the 'āina on which I was born and raised--it has been life-changing to finally take part in culturally relevant practices and give back to this 'āina through service learning programs offered by ACCESS. Had I not joined Mālama i'na Ahupua'a (MINA), one of their main programs, I would not at all be where I am today. With service learning having opened my eyes to the amazing culture that's been in front of me my whole life, I feel extremely indebted to ACCESS and the ethnic studies department, especially Director of Civic Engagement Ulla Hasager, for redirecting me toward the academic, personal, and spiritual path on which I tread today.

This being said, I once again urge the BOR to reconsider their methods of budget-cutting. It is not fair to trample on a department that is still only just beginning to blossom, especially one that so many have worked so hard to create, and which represents the rights and agency of so many already marginalized and disadvantaged social groups.

Mahalo nui loa,
Jocelyn Grandinetti



In Defense of UH Dance

Stephanie Gumpel <stephaniegumpel@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:44 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

Dear Mr. David Lassner and caring administration and faculty at UH Manoa,

I am a graduate of UH Manoa - a 2010 alumni. I put my numerous responsibilities aside to write this letter to you the moment I heard there is a proposal to shut down UH Dance for next year's budget cuts.

I'll try to be brief, but convey the gravity of my message fully. I am currently a professional choreographer, writer, and director based in LA and Austin. I just finished my latest film alongside Adam Suschitzky, B.S.C. He is a top tier creative in the US and international film and television industry. He comes from generations of transcendent artists including, Peter Suschitzky, who was the DP for "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" and innumerable other films that have deeply impacted our culture in a measurable way. I also have two feature films in development with Oscar caliber executive producers.

I am not from a wealthy background and my parents are middle-class non-artists with one public college degree between them. I have no connections to the art or film world other than what I have created through my own work. I have been able to elicit the support of producers and artists in my industry that are thought of as elite and unreachable, and the only way I have done so is through the quality of education, care, and confidence that I received from the UH dance faculty and my peers in the program - some of which I am still working with in professional endeavors to this day. Not a year goes by that I don't reach out to my peers from the program to creatively contribute to my current projects.

I will also say in confidence that while I was a student, I was dealing with physical and mental abuse off campus. The faculty and my peers in the program were not only there for me, but I would not be exaggerating to say that I might not be alive today without their support. To paraphrase what my ex-professor, Betsy Fisher, said to me in the midst of my crisis, "When you invest in dance every day, and you're dealing with something in life that is threatening and terrible, you can lean on dance and it will be there for you." And she was right. The arts have this power absolutely. I hope I don't need to say that I was also guided to appropriate means of support other than dance to address my situation. But the message was that difficulty won't destroy you as an artist, dance can lift you up. Dr. Gregg Lizenbery gave equally influential support to me, all while he was in his own crisis of fighting cancer. As well as, Peggy Gaither Adams while dealing with the recent loss of her husband. These educators' strength and dedication is off the charts.

Consequently, so much of my work as an artist today is about finding a voice while under the influence of an oppressive force and abuse of power. My colleagues in the film industry are not necessarily on this page with me yet, and that is why I am so driven to do my work in an incredibly difficult and resistant industry. UH Dance nurtured this drive in me and gave me the tools I needed to thrive in the arts. And I was not special. I know for a fact I'm not alone. This program gives back exactly what you give to it and more. It is and always has been available to everyone without discrimination.

I also took classes in fine arts, film, astronomy, and creative writing while at UH, and none of those communities held a candle to what UH Dance gives us. No disrespect to others, UH Dance just has something intangible and special that I have never experienced at any other learning institution. If I had to articulate it, I would say that the educators care so deeply and are so passionate about what they do, they draw out a deep soul level of investment in the work that is done under their watch. You just want to give everything and you give it with total joy and fearlessness.

UH Dance was my home, my safe place, my launching pad into a coveted career in the arts, and potentially having a voice to influence culture in a meaningful way. It is a mistake to look there for budgeting solutions. You will lose far more than you recover.

My sincerest wish for a bright and supported future for UH Dance-

Stephanie Gumpel
Choreographer and Director
213.703.4312

Regarding the "Stop-Out" Option for Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies

Greg Pōmaika'i Gushiken <ggushike@ucsd.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:05 AM

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Gregory Pōmaika'i Gushiken, and I am a 2018 Kanaka Maoli alumnus of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a current doctoral student at the University of California, San Diego, in the Department of Ethnic Studies. I am writing you today to call for the protection of Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, and Theater & Dance as well as the immediate withdrawal of the option to "stop out" Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies as postulated by the University in their latest statement. Such measures have yet to have any proven financial benefits, and are but the latest in a stream of attacks on the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i and globally.

It is important first to acknowledge that Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies globally were created out of movements for social justice, decolonization, and liberation. Indeed, beginning with the student strikes at San Francisco State University and others across the United States, Ethnic Studies was founded by and for students aiming to articulate a way of learning, of educating, and of creating and organizing that centers our intersecting histories, presents, and futures. Indeed, bringing a uniquely Oceanic lens to social justice education, Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has a 50 year history, beginning in the 1970s with critical education that fed into the Hawai'i community through the many student leaders it produced, student leaders who today are our kūpuna and our community leaders. Ethnic Studies students were, indeed, at Waiāhole and Waikāne, at Kaho'olawe, and at Mauna Kea, sometimes leading, often times organizing, and always caring for our communities. **Ethnic Studies, whether directly or indirectly, has produced a generation of community leaders in Hawai'i that have continued to shape what a future grounded in justice, aloha 'āina, and love looks like.**

Likewise, the Department of Women's Studies has fostered a generation of leaders whose particular expertise in the study of gender, sexuality, and the fierce critique of heteropatriarchal structures has made them incredible scholars, organizers, leaders, and artists. A particular attention to gender and sexuality is already largely missing in our curriculum in Hawai'i, broadly, not just in the university but in the entire range of our P-20 educational system. To dissolve women's studies into an interdisciplinary studies major would not only further deter students from majoring in Women's Studies, but would also deprive the program of resources needed for it to thrive.

Particularly, in this current moment, it would be an egregious misstep to believe that directing funding away from such program that contribute critical perspectives of social problems, legislation, and other facets of our reality would benefit the university in the long run, as these programs provide absolutely vital analysis of our current moment. Indeed, it is impossible to understand the effects of the global pandemic, climate change, militarization, colonization, and the continued anti-Black racism and violence without an analysis of race, indigeneity, class, gender, and sexuality. In other words, it is simply not possible to imagine a world grounded in justice and care without the work that comes from these programs. Given these crises, thus, Hawai'i as a whole must be committed to a future grounded in Black and Indigenous feminist ethics that value care, community embodied knowledges, and a fierce commitment to justice. In other words, these programs are absolutely vital in charting better futures for Hawai'i and the world.

To dissolve these programs and to dissolve Ethnic Studies along with it would foreclose the possibilities of these futures. Dissolving these programs would say, loud and clear, to the Hawai'i community that the University of Hawai'i does not value or care about our futures. Particularly, dissolving these programs is a further disservice to the Hawaiian community, as these programs are some of the very few spaces on campus where our voices are listened to and our organizing, art, and histories are valued. Likewise, the Department of Theater and Dance along with other arts and humanities departments, as I have written in another submission to the Board of Regents, is absolutely pivotal to our education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, particularly when Black, Indigenous, and other POC students must navigate hostile conditions on campus every day.

As a Kanaka Maoli scholar of Ethnic Studies, I urge the University of Hawai'i to consider the value of Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies. I urge the University of Hawai'i, further, to take notice that **across the US, Ethnic Studies programs are becoming commonplace.** Indeed, in California, the state legislature just passed a measure to mandate ethnic studies courses in K-12 education across the state. Elsewhere, PhD programs in Ethnic Studies are becoming more and more commonplace. Some include: the University of California San Diego, the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of California Berkeley, the University of California Riverside, and the newly founded Ethnic Studies PhD at the University of Oregon.

For the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to consider dissolving such a program actively sends a message to the academic community and to the Hawai'i community that the University of Hawai'i does not value Black, Indigenous and other POC knowledges, communities, histories, and voices. To be against Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies is to actively be against Black and Indigenous peoples as well as other people of color. To be against Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies is to actively participate in the ongoing violences of heteropatriarchy. **To be against Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies is to disavow 50 years of history at the University of Hawai'i, a history that has inevitably shaped not only our campus but also our community.**

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration and, again, I urge you to immediately withdraw the option to “stop-out” Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies as well as to immediately withdraw plans to discontinue of the Dance and Theater majors.

me ka mahalo,

--

Gregory Pōmaika’i Gushiken, M.A. (he/him/his)
Ph.D. Student, Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, San Diego

The UC San Diego community holds great respect for the land and the original people of the area where our campus is located. UC San Diego is built on the unceded territory of the [Kumeyaay Nation](#) Today, the Kumeyaay people continue to maintain their political sovereignty and cultural traditions as vital members of the San Diego community. We acknowledge their tremendous contributions and enduring relations to the region and thank them for their stewardship.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Gregory Pōmaika'i Gushiken <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:59 AM

Reply-To: ggushike@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 Gregory Pōmaika'i Gushiken
 Email ggushike@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 5896857
 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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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:

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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 alumnus of the University of Hawai'i and a current doctoral student at UC San Diego writing a dissertation at the intersections of Kanaka Maoli indigeneity, climate change, gender & sexuality, and art & writing, I find it disappointing that the University of Hawai'i would defund one of the most important programs 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.

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: Gregory Pōmaika'i Gushiken

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address
City: Las Vegas
State / Province: Nevada
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.

Makena Harootian <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:56 PM

Reply-To: makenanoel@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 Makena Harootian
 Email makenanoel@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 4281777
 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
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Please add your additional comments:

As an alumni of UH Manoa dance department I know that the performing arts of dance and theater are an integral part of the college experience and communities beyond. To cut these programs would be a detrimental cut to the entire culture of the UH systems and would be an overall shame.

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:

Makena Harootian

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Austin
State / Province: Texas
Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Opposition to Stop-out the Ethnic Studies Bachelor of Arts

Johanna Hartnett <jhartnet@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:32 AM

I came to the University of Hawai'i to go to school in paradise, when I arrived it was the Ethnic Studies program that opened my eyes to what Hawai'i is truly about, taking away the BA in Ethnic Studies would be stabbing the true soul of UH. I ask the Manoa Budget Team to provide evidence on how the option to "stop-out" ES will result in immediate projected savings, maybe you can cut the Football budget instead of eliminating an educational humanitarian ideal of UH. This is an action of institutional racism and I speak as a student of UH, as a member of Social Sciences, we will not stand for this.

Johanna Hartnett



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

Michelle Herd <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:58 AM

Reply-To: michellemherd@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 Michelle Herd
Email michellemherd@gmail.com
Phone Number (951) 4401522
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
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Please add your additional comments:

We cannot be human beings who are capable of coming up with creative solutions to the worlds problems, to our individual problems, if we do not have spaces to practice and cultivate our creativity. Protect dance. Protect us 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 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."

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:

Michelle Herd

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [2828 Jamaica Blvd South](#)

State / Province: Lake Havasu City AZ

Country: United States

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



Letter in support of Ethnic Studies

Patricia Penn HILDEN <hilden@berkeley.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:43 AM

Please see attached.
Thank you.
Patricia Penn Hilden
Professor Emerita
University of California, Berkeley

 **2020-09-15 in support of ethnic studies vs. regents.pdf**
741K

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES
ASIAN AMERICAN & ASIAN DIASPORA STUDIES
CHICANO STUDIES
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

506 Barrows Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-2570
510 643-0796
510 642-6456 fax

15 September 2020

Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i

Dear Regents:

I write to support, as strongly as possible, both the continuance and indeed the expansion of the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. I write from the perspective of an emeritus professor of Comparative Ethnic Studies, with specialization in Native American and Indigenous Studies, in the first such department, founded at the end of the 1960s at the University of California, Berkeley. I write as well as an historian (PhD, Cambridge University) of race and ethnicity in both Europe and North America. For the past 2 years, and continuing this year, I have been welcomed – warmly – by the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa (as well as by faculty across the campus). I had known of the seminal work of the first chair of ES I met, Prof. Monisha Das Gupta, who acted as my faculty mentor for the first two years of my work here, and the equally seminal work of the present department chair, Prof. Ty Tengan, an Indigenous scholar known across the international Indigenous world of which I am also a part. Prof. Tengan's work had long provided me with key ideas in my own current work but meeting him and having the chance to talk and learn in person has been invaluable. I hope that both Prof. Das Gupta and Prof. Tengan will find that the results of our interactions, which they will see in the book I am finishing, have done their work the honor it deserves!

After asking to join them as a visiting scholar two and a half years ago, I began reading the work of all the faculty in the department and quickly realized how very remarkable they all are. From the youngest faculty – Ethan Caldwell, Brian Chung, and Laurel Mei-Singh – to the recently retired – Noel Kent and Jonathan Okamura – they are amazing, as I immediately told my many UC Berkeley colleagues and former students. Not only is their published work amongst the best in an outstanding field of Critical Ethnic Studies scholars, but their teaching – which I have had the joy of observing many times – leaves someone of my generation confident that we are handing on the work to those who will continue the work. I have both seen and heard – from students whose connections to my own students in California drove them to seek me out here – the enthusiasm generated by their participation in Ethnic Studies here. I have watched the mentoring – that goes well above the

“usual” efforts of even the best faculty. We in Ethnic Studies have a special charge, to reach communities not usually supported by higher education and to draw young people in to the significant work of giving our people – and our ancestors – a voice where they have not had any voice at all for so long. Not all faculty in the field take up this work but all the faculty here does – willingly and with great warmth and care for all the students.

As I am sure all will agree, we are living in fraught times, torn by racism and divided by violence and hate. At no time has there been such a need for people trained to study and analyze the knotty histories of these phenomena. Here, in Hawai'i, where the past has exemplified this violence and racism, such skills seem to me to be key to moving forward into a much more equitable and just society, the often-stated goal of most residents of the State of Hawai'i, including those at the university and throughout the state's government and business community. Despite such goals, however, racism remains endemic across the islands. As an outsider, one trained to look through a particular lens at racist behaviors and attitudes, I see and hear statements and actions that reflect the extent of the often-unexamined attitudes. As a volunteer tutor for local at-risk youth, I see the stark absences in the State's curricula. I hear a mayor announce his amazement after he had met – evidently for the first time! – with a major part of O'ahu's population, those non-Kanaka Maoli Pacific Islanders who include people from Sāmoa, Tonga, Chuuk, and the Marshall Islands. How they live, how they are policed, how they are schooled (or not), what their health facilities are, and so on were all, he explained, things about which he had known nothing at all, despite having been mayor for several years! Had he studied even one course within the Department of Ethnic Studies at UHM, he'd have known to listen to ALL the communities represented on O'ahu. Just as the Japanese-American population had a struggle to find acknowledgement of its past – most recently internment and the “fighting 442cd” and so on – and found the Department of Ethnic Studies a home for that struggle, so other populations struggle now and similarly need a place where their histories and cultures and languages are honored and studied, not ignored.

It has been a privilege to be associated with this department, its students, its staff, and its faculty for this time I have spent amongst them. I am, frankly, shocked by the proposals that effectively cut the department just when the university should be choosing to expand it, possibly making it the umbrella for faculty from other departments whose work connects them directly into Critical Ethnic Studies work. This entity “Interdisciplinary Studies” is, in fact, a meaningless one, an empty category guaranteed to confuse undergraduates seeking to major in the kind of subjects available in Ethnic Studies. That confusion (exactly what is a student studying in “interdisciplinary studies”? “Interdisciplinarity”? A muddle of a bunch of disciplines?) will lead, I predict, to the decline in enrollments apparently desired by the cost-cutters of this administration. At the very time that Critical Ethnic Studies has a larger and larger international presence, with serious journals, international and national conferences, thriving professional organizations, this university proposes to hide the department and then, possibly, to disband it completely.

What a tragic act. What a loss of possibility for this university. It should be clear to all that the effort to move the U of H into the ranks of first rate US universities demands not a smaller, less visible department of Ethnic Studies but rather a thriving, well-supported pillar of the university's functioning. Just look around at all the public universities rated – across the world – as “top”: all include strong and thriving Critical Ethnic Studies departments, with degrees at all levels and faculty key to every intellectual undertaking all over the globe.

Support the young faculty in their work; build the department; draw scholars from across the University into its inclusive community!

I should add that I would have circulated this letter for the signatures I know would be forthcoming from scholars across the US but given the terrible catastrophe unfolding across the western US, I decided it would be unkind to reach out to friends and colleagues who are finding breathing difficult and some watching the hills and mountains not far from their own homes on fire. Thus I remain writing in the tradition of my own people, the Nez Perce (Nimipuu) people, and I speak only for myself.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Penn Hilden".

Patricia Penn Hilden (PhD, Cantab)
Professor Emerita,
University of California, Berkeley
hilden@berkeley.edu



Testimony regarding changes made to Women's Studies Department

Emily Holmberg <emilyhol@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:22 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: L Saraswati <luhp@hawaii.edu>

Aloha,

My name is Emily Holmberg and I am a double major in History and Women's Studies. I never thought that in my last semester here at UH, I would have to defend the existence of my field of study.

At an institution like the University of Hawai'i, which touts itself as a "Hawaiian place of learning," it is essential to follow through on that claim and provide intersectional and culturally versed education to students from Hawai'i and elsewhere. It is my fear that by taking away the autonomy of the Women's Studies Department, many students will lose out on the opportunities that I have been fortunate enough to partake in academically.

I fully understand that the current COVID situation has taken an economic toll on the State and the University. It has taken a toll on us all. But when we engage in the process of rebuilding ourselves and our communities, we must turn to more than just science and industry. Scientific fields are incredibly important resources for research and solution-based problem solving during a global pandemic as the one that we are in, but science alone will not help us rebuild. The arts, humanities and social sciences help us to understand ourselves as people and as a community. If we lose those fields, then we lose our humanity.

So I must ask, is the University of Hawai'i a Hawaiian place of learning simply due to its geographic location and the land that it occupies? Or because it gives students the opportunity to be well-rounded in the history and culture of the Hawaiian islands and the Pacific community as taught through departments like Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, and others?

Mahalo for your time.

Emily Holmberg

Phi Alpha Theta: Alpha Beta Epsilon Chapter Undergraduate President

NRHH Kau I Ka Hano Chapter President

Gateway House Resident Assistant, Rainbow Villa



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

Carol Honda <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:24 AM

Reply-To: c3hondadeluxe@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	Carol Honda
Email	c3hondadeluxe@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 3233339
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 have a bachelor's degree in Drama and theatre from UH Manoa. I have been a professional actor in NY for almost 30 years. When I went to UH, I had no idea what my major would be until I stumbled into a Intro to Drama class. That class has changed my life. I discovered that theatre is my passion. Saving the department would provide opportunities for many young people who might

be in the same position as I was- so unsure of what direction to take. I always viewed the university as a place where you can truly find your way in life. I am forever grateful for UH for the education and access I received. Please do not compromise the dreams of future generations.

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:

Carol Honda

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 81-6258 Hind Drive, Captain Cook

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.

Dora Hong <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:03 PM

Reply-To: dora_hong@hmsa.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 Dora Hong
 Email dora_hong@hmsa.com
 Phone Number (808) 3868001
 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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Please add your additional comments:

this is a disaster decision for future Hawaii young people and students from all over the world. Please reconsider and stop. Education for young generation are the most important program for our community. 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 comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature



Name:

Dora Hong

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [155 N. Beretania St.](#), 1702

State / Province: Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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.

Sherilyn Hoomanawanui <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:41 AM

Reply-To: kauaigrrlx@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 Sherilyn Hoomanawanui
 Email kauaigrrlx@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 2367361
 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
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Humanities programs & the arts are a vital part of human civilization, society, and our local communities. They contribute to the economy, and the health and well being of the community. A university is not a tech college or a STEM-only institution. It's purpose is to support the community it serves, in this case, the state of Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. In a place where performance,

music & dance is integral to diverse cultures and help make them vibrant and dynamic—which our university reflects—to cut these programs for temporary savings would be woefully short-sighted in the long run.

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: Sherilyn Hoomanawanui

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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.

Craig Howes <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:39 AM

Reply-To: craighow@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 Craig Howes
Email craighow@hawaii.edu
Phone Number (808) 594-3142
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: The Theatre and Dance programs have been the training foundation for hundreds of performing artists and teachers for the state of Hawai'i. Much of the public face of the university is provided by 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

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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.

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:

Craig Howes

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

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>

Testimony in support of the BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures

Sharlene Insong <sinsong@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sharlene Insong, UH alumni and former student of the Ilokano language program at UH. I am writing this letter in strong opposition of the University of Hawaii's proposal to "stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture".

I know that we are currently in a pandemic and times are hard however, I do not believe cutting this program will be a good solution to this problem. From my time at UH, I have taken Ilokano language courses as well as IP classes that have always been full of students and even students being waitlisted. Full enrollment in the program's courses shows that it is not a cost center, but rather it draws in many tuition-paying students.

Nevertheless, it is appalling to me that the budget cuts to programs in the university targeted departments that play an important role in the education of minority communities i.e women's studies, ethnic studies and the Philippine language and literature program. In this social political climate especially, we should be pushing for the expansion for these programs rather than cutting them. The University of Hawaii continues to focus on money rather than focusing on the education of language, culture and histories/issues of minority communities. In a capitalist society, this is expected, but should not be accepted. I urge the board to rethink the programs they have proposed to cut.

Additionally, Hawaii has a high population of Filipinos and many students are second generation Filipino-Americans who did not learn their language of their ancestors but come to UH to do so. I was one of these students. UH is the only university in the world that offers a BA in Ilokano and this should not be taken away for the sake of the community in Hawaii who need a place to learn about their culture and where they come from. The effects of colonialism and immigration continue to affect diasporic Filipinos/ second/third Flipino Americans who do not have physical ties to their homeland. The least UH can do to fix this, is provide funding to give students the opportunity to learn their language and culture.

Lastly, there is also a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures. I am currently a paralegal/AmeriCorps advocate for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii where I have seen the need for Tagalog and Ilokano speakers in legal services. Many clients that I speak to are vulnerable immigrants who know basic english and would otherwise not completely understand what I am saying in english. There are other times where I have heard that it is difficult for the courts to get an Ilokano interpreter. As you can see, my experience along with the huge filipino population in Hawaii, creates a great need for UH to continue to have the BA in Philippine languages and literature.

I hope this letter gets to you well, and you see the importance of this program for our students, future generations and community.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Insong



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

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

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:40 AM

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, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@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.

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:

In a personal note, my time at UH Manoa, changed the course of my dance career.

I had the wonderful opportunity to study dance on the exchange program. It is where I discovered the Hawaiian culture through hula. It is where I learned the history of the islands and its people. It gave me a deeper understanding of the context I was in and fostered a love of which that endures to this day. For the first time I understood that culture was transmitted through dance. And I pursue this work and research to this day.

I have shared my hugely rewarding experience there with other dancers and they have pursued Hawaiian and hula studies as a result. I was later a guest lecturer at UH Hilo's Dance Department.

And this all happened through dance and music. it is a rich and important strand of not only the university but of the islands themselves and would be an enormous loss if it were to be cut.

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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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:

Jennifer Irons

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Worthing

State / Province: West Sussex

Country: United Kingdom

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.

Tom Iwanicki <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:17 AM

Reply-To: iwanicki@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, iezz@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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

Name Tom Iwanicki
 Email iwanicki@hawaii.edu
 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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-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 the only flagship and land-grant university serving the state of Hawai'i, it is your obligation to provide a comprehensive higher education to the denizens of this land. University of Hawai'i should be run like a university, a source of higher education, culture, and innovation serving the public. It is not a business and its bottom line should not be the motivator for cuts to small, less "profitable" 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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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 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:

Tom Iwanicki

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

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



In regards to your preliminary proposals for program cuts to the Arts

Devon Izumigawa <devonizumigawa@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:15 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

Dear University of Hawaii President, David Lassner,

By now, I am sure you are being flooded by emails in regards to recent plans to cut or reorganize certain programs at your institution. There have and has been understandable opposition to these plans, with many negative emotions, in a time where many are already in a state of distress, due to economic and health issues. I can only imagine it has been taking its toll on you, as well as the rest of your staff, making you consider the potential cuts and reorganization in your institution in the first place. I do not wish to add fuel to the negativity, but hopefully provide a different perspective, in regards to you and your staff's preliminary proposal for the Arts.

I would ask you to consider what media you or your family have consumed of late, in a year full of unexpected developments. Television shows, movies, social media, games, etc.. What about things you may have heard or taken part of here in Hawaii in the past? Things like Chinese New Year festivities, Honolulu Festival, Merry Monarch Festival, Lantern Floating Ceremony, Okinawan Festival, Korean Festival, Greek Festival, Obon season, Art after Dark, First Fridays, Made in Hawaii Festival, etc.. Have they enhanced your mood positively, relieved tension you may have been dealing with, taken your mind away from the difficulties you face daily? If you have thought and answered yes to any or all of these, I would ask you to consider the role the Arts play for you in your life. Could you imagine a world where these things were not present for you, in a time you needed to cope?

If the decision is made for the Arts programs to be finalized in the proposed cuts or reorganization, this could be the world you and your staff set up. Not only for you and your institution, but for the community of Hawaii as well. For someone to have to leave Hawaii to further their pursuits in the Arts in a higher education institution, it would be a sad future that pulls away the keiki, and the Art that could be created here in Hawaii, where Art is so present around us. Tradition, culture, and innovation all have a special and important role in Hawaii's community, if not the heart of Hawaii's community. It is through these things that so many people of different walks and paths in life come to Hawaii. Whether as tourists, students, family, or other. They come to experience the aloha we in the community of Hawaii can give.

I ask that you take time to reflect on your life, and ask yourself what life without Art would be like for you. Where if emails, meetings, and numbers were all that dictated how you lived your life, would you be able to say that you are happy? That you were able to enjoy yourself? If so, power to you, but if not, consider what that means. I do not state this out of aggression, but concern that perhaps there is more to the Arts that you may have overlooked or forgotten.

I cannot speak for the other programs being targeted for cuts or reorganization, as they are out of my Kuleana, though I imagine you and your staff are being flooded by their departments and supporters as well. I may just be another email to you, in the flood that you are receiving now. However, if you do take the time to read this, I trust you and your staff will be able to make the decision you believe is right for you, your institution, and the community of Hawaii. A decision that comes from your heart. I appreciate you and your staff's efforts to create an open conversation on these proposals.

Sincerely from an Alumnus,

Devon Izumigawa, MS, L.Ac



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

Lisa Jay <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:33 AM

Reply-To: lisajaydance@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	Lisa Jay
Email	lisajaydance@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 9272646
Date	09-15-2023
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:

The Performing Arts offer students unique pathways of expression, "platforms" of expression that speak to and about humanity in ways that go beyond words. Cutting these programs from the University of Hawaii will eliminate all platforms of unique, beautiful expression. A university without dance and the performing arts will be a university that lack a well-rounded, diverse curriculum.

Now more than ever, society as a whole needs the Arts. As someone who obtained her undergraduate degree in Drama & Theatre and her graduate degree in Dance from the University of Hawaii, I implore you not to cut the performing 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.

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Signature



Name:

Lisa Jay

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [3930 Laurel Canyon Blvd.](#), 217

State / Province: Studio City

Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Keep Ethnic Studies at UHM

J Jenkins <jjenk458@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:31 AM

Aloha Board of Regents,

I'm writing to ask that the administration stop targeting Ethnic Studies and to immediately withdraw the option to "stop-out" of ethnic studies. Also, please provide evidence of the option to "stop-out" of Ethnic Studies that will result in significant savings. Please note that even if there are savings, there are none that are worth the loss of the benefit of Ethnic Studies to the community.

Mahalo,

Jen Jenkins



The Importance of Women's Studies

Abigail Jones <ajones9@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:48 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha,

My name is Abigail Jones. I am a 3rd year student at UH Manoa and currently double majoring in biochemistry and Women's Studies.

This is a plea for the UH administration to reconsider their decision to make the Women's Studies department "work closely" with Interdisciplinary Studies. Women's Studies (WS) strives to shed light on the aspects of history that have long been ignored. From almost the beginning of time, women and people identifying with genders or sexualities other than that of a heterosexual male have been cast to the side in written history. Society has been suppressing women and other gendered peoples for far too long. The independent and thriving Women's Studies program has provided a much needed voice for those lost to history and represents the fight for change and equality within our still incredibly flawed patriarchal culture.

To those insisting on a merge with Interdisciplinary Studies, I ask how this proposal would indeed (a) result in the increase in the number of majors for WS, and (b) contribute to the cost-cutting measures at the UH. As of yet, the Manoa Budget Team has provided no actual guidance on the actual impact this would have on students.

I follow up with this question, would the Manoa Budget Team be just as willing to cut STEAM programs? Would they be willing to force an unwanted merge between engineering majors and biology majors, claiming that they are both science founded and therefore equivalent?

UH Manoa claims to be an institution that values creativity, social justice, and innovation. If this was truly the case, the Women's Studies program would not be threatened by budget cuts. If this was truly the case, programs such as WS, Ethnic Studies, and Theatre/Dance would not be valued any less than STEAM programs.

To cut funding for these programs will reveal how dedicated UH Manoa really is to social justice and innovation. If the Manoa Budget Team cuts funding for Women's Studies (even under the guise of a merge with IS), they are no different from the societies who have snuffed the voices of women for centuries. Show us that Manoa has evolved. Show us that you care. Remove WS from the post-COVID initiative of budget cuts.

Respectfully,

Abigail Jones.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Letter in support of Ethnic Studies and the immediate withdrawal of the ES BA "stop-out"

Aurora K. Kagawa-Viviani <kagawa@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:25 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha mai Board of Regents,

I am submitting testimony to call for the immediate withdrawal of the proposed "stop-out" of the Ethnic Studies BA degree. This proposal does not appear to have involved any discussion with the department communities affected and gives strong impression of a very poorly informed and tone-deaf top-down decision. It is also unclear to me how this move produces any cost savings.

Ethnic Studies - its formation, faculty, and graduates, have a rich legacy in the Hawaiian Island in terms of fostering multi-ethnic solidarity and social innovations. While they may not put energy into articulating the departments impacts, I am certain, that if given time to organize such justification for existence, a very strong case for the continued existence of the BA will surface. In fact, in these times when institutional racism and disparities have been unveiled by both COVID and police violence, ES is more important than ever, and I imagine a progressive UH would take this opportunity to *expand* ES and actively support collaboration and synergies across departments rather than target ES for eventual elimination.

Times of budgetary crisis, while distressing, can also be times of innovation and transformation, if done in **transparent** and **collaborative** settings. An important first step toward this for re-visioning ES is to allow the department define its own future along its theme of "Our History, Our Way." The proposal to "stop-out" the ES BA belies the MBT's ignorance of the entire history of ES and its relevance to the last 50 years of Hawaii's history- and the first step to rectifying this should be withdrawing the "stop-out."

Thank you for your time.

Aurora Kagawa-Viviani, PhD
Instructor, Department of Geography and Environment
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Written testimony for 9/17/2020 BOR meeting

Sara Kahanamoku <sara.kahanamoku@berkeley.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:40 PM

Aloha mai,

I write as a community member, Native Hawaiian, and academic to condemn the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's decision to target the Ethnic Studies program for a "stop-out" measure. This action is nonsensical and, in light of current events, racist. A strong program in Ethnic Studies (ES) is invaluable to a university--though I personally work in a STEM field, I use teachings from my ES courses each day in making decisions about science ethics and my interactions with the diverse community with whom I work. By choosing to devalue the contribution of ES, UHM is ignoring the impact that this field has on all aspects of academia, and the importance of teaching about the legacies of Hawai'i's diverse peoples to all who pass through the university.

I write with three major requests of the BOR:

1. Please provide evidence re: how the option to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies will result in immediate projected savings. The BOR has not made it clear how this will positively impact UHM's ability to respond to a COVID-induced budget shortfall over the short and long term.
2. Stop targeting Ethnic Studies for continued budget cuts.
3. Immediately withdraw the option to "stop-out" ES.

This is an act of institutional racism. In the current climate, following a long summer (and continued fall) of Black Lives Matter protests, blatant institutional racism against the Waikato 6 (Pasifika and Māori academics in Aotearoa), and the general hostility of academia to diverse scholars, students, and staff, this move will not go unnoticed. By continuing to target the ES program, the University of Hawai'i is sending a message that it does not value diversity in culture or scholarship. This message will be remembered by current and future generations of students and employees.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Sara Tenamoeata Kahanamoku, PhD candidate in Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley

--

S. Kahanamoku (they/she)

PhD Candidate, Department of Integrative Biology

NSF GRFP + Chancellor's Fellow

University of California, Berkeley

sara.kahanamoku@berkeley.edu





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

seanpaul kaleopaa-tadaki <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:45 PM

Reply-To: sean66@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 seanpaul kaleopaa-tadaki
 Email sean66@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 3681767
 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: this is a good class it didn't just teach me about theater but how to write better too.

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:

seanpaul kaleopaa-tadaki

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: wahiawa

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.

Bonnie Kim <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:05 AM

Reply-To: bkimhawaii@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 Bonnie Kim
Email bkimhawaii@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 6409182
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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Please add your additional comments:

As one of the alumni of the UHM Theatre & Dance MFA program, I'm so shocked to hear this unthinkable news. One of the proudest things I share with others when I work and present as an independent artist and teaching artist at various theater and puppetry events, conferences, festivals and workshops around the world is my education at UHM which offered a well-rounded and

mix of hands-on learning experiences in Asian theater and Asian & Pacific focused dances and music, different aspects of theater design, performing and research. As a Hawaii resident student who had to self-support own education and living expenses, going to grad school on mainland was not an option for me. However, what I learned and gained from my MFA studies at UHM Theatre & Dance department was absolutely invaluable and helped me find the path that I lead now as a freelance artist and teaching artist. I truly believe that our theater & dance programs are very special and unique and I personally know many folks who were in the department when I was in are making a difference and touching people's lives in so many ways, especially in this trying time of the pandemic in many parts of the world with their art work and training. I truly hope that UHM does not become one of generic universities by cutting out programs that are special and unique to Hawaii.

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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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:

Bonnie Kim

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Keaau

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.

Megan Kloetzel <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:01 PM

Reply-To: kathleenm923@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 Megan Kloetzel
 Email kathleenm923@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 3491238
 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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Please add your additional comments:

Please do not cut these important 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

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Signature



Name:

Megan Kloetzel

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Address

City: [6041 Kalaniana'ole Hwy](#)

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.

Kaitlyn Kopetic <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:05 AM

Reply-To: kaitlyn.kopetic@stonybrook.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 Kaitlyn Kopetic
Email kaitlyn.kopetic@stonybrook.edu
Phone Number (516) 4914737
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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Please add your additional comments:

I studied at UH very briefly, I was fortunate enough to spend time at this university through the NSE program coming from my home university in NY. My time learning about Hawaiian and Pacific theatre (and other theatre as well) from Mike Poblete and his TAs was one of the most memorable experiences of my time in Hawaii. Reducing this program will be of serious detriment to the 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:

Kaitlyn Kopetic

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Glen Head

State / Province: New York

Country: United States

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



Dance at the University of Hawai'i

Stephan Koplowitz <skoplowitz@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:42 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

Dear President Lassner,

As a working professional artist in the contemporary dance community for the past 35 years and as the former dean of dance at the Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at the California Institute of the Arts (2006-16), I urge you to consider carefully before making any changes to your program of study in dance.

Not only have I encountered students, alumni, and faculty during my career from the University of Hawai'i, but last year (May 2019), I conducted a master class/lecture on my choreographic practice of site-specific dance at your Manoa campus. As an aside, I am currently writing a book on that topic for Oxford University Press to be published next year.

The stellar reputation of the Univ. of Hawai'i's dance program (within the Dept. of Theater and Dance) is well deserved. It is known not only for its rigor in training and scholarship, but that it provides the opportunity for true cross-cultural exposure and experience for students. During our current climate of social and economic change, this dance program is ever more important and can and will play a leadership role as we move forward in the arts community.

You are also fortunate to have a faculty that is not only passionate about teaching but brings forth portfolios of professional accomplishments that help to inspire students at every level. When I was on campus, it was so obvious how well and how thorough the faculty I encountered put their student's needs and concerns at the forefront of their teaching and administration. In all of my years of teaching and working with other institutions of high learning, it is gratifying to see that level commitment to education with a student oriented philosophy.

If you are planning to make any cuts to this dance program, I encourage you to look elsewhere. A program such as yours is rare, and a lessening of its ability to function and deliver the quality that is required and desired would be a loss not only to the State of Hawai'i but the greater national arts community.

You have in your department chair, Betsy Fisher, a person who is well-grounded, honest, hard-working, creative, and a consummate professional in our field. Given her combination talents and accomplishments, I would trust her judgment during these times of stress and uncertainty.

I can't imagine, that the total budget of the dance program is anywhere near other programs under consideration and I can guarantee, that your return on investment is far higher and is compounded with each year. Not only are you keeping Hawai'i residents from leaving the state but you attract new artists to the community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to continue this conversation.

I wish you all the best during these historic and challenging times.

Sincerely,

Stephan Koplowitz

Artistic Director
Kop Art, Inc.

former, Dean of Dance, CalArts (2006-16)



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Sasha Kovacs <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:23 PM

Reply-To: snee8@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	Sasha Kovacs
Email	snee8@hotmail.com
Phone Number	(650) 4794118
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
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Please add your additional comments:

I certainly hope that the teaching of Arts and Humanities including Dance and Theater will continue to be a valued part of the curriculum at UH. I doubt that tax-payers will want to continue to fund UH if the quality of education offered continues to go downhill while the price is ever increasing. Please be aware that many students and their families are already looking at alternatives to traditional

University for just this reason, exorbitant cost and low quality of educational opportunities being offered. I suggest that UH reconsider cutting educational programs and graduate assistantships if you want to stay in business as competitive publically funded educational institution.

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."

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:

Sasha Kovacs

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

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

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

testimony regarding reorg

Eomailani Kukahiko <eomai@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:39 PM

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 am writing to give feedback on the plans for the College of Education as well as STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks), Ethnic Studies (BA).

College of Education

Suggestions:

- Decrease the size of the college-wide PhD program (all concentrations), and graduate programs in Educational Administration, Educational Foundations, Educational Psychology, and Learning Design & Technology.
- Decrease the size of the Curriculum & Instruction concentration in the college-wide PhD program.
- Increase the size of the EdD program.

As a graduate of the Curriculum & Instruction doctoral program, I reject the notion that this concentration and others should be decreased. First, the nature of the program attracts many Hawaiian, Filipino and other marginalized students because of the program philosophy and faculty that work in the program. Graduates of this program hold tenure-line positions across the Mānoa campus, and a student currently holding an executive management position at a UH campus.

As I have also worked with the EdD program, I can see that this is a possible area for growth, this growth however should not come on the backs of classroom teachers that may not be able to afford the additional costs to enroll in the program only available through the Outreach College. I should also like to note that the current program directors are not currently being paid any kind of compensation for their tremendous work in the program which is not a way to induce cost savings.

- Reallocate faculty to the Institute for Teacher Education
- Stop-out concentrations in the MEd in Curriculum Studies that do not support teacher licensure (or add-a-teaching-field), and those that do not generate tuition through Outreach College.

I have worked in the COE for 16 years preparing educators for Hawai'i's educational system. A reallocation of COE faculty in general toward teacher licensure is inappropriate as many may not have the kind of classroom experience that is able to directly prepare teachers for the classrooms. Having said that. I do believe that each program in the COE contributes to the well-being of our public and private school systems. Therefore licensure and add-a-field should not be the only target as these are not requirements for public institutions.

Dean-level responses:

- Consider "stop out" of under enrolled programs and some concentrations and redirect resources (e.g., faculty) to other programs (e.g., Early childhood, Hawaiian Immersion).

The US Department of Education has identified both Hawaiian language, and Hawaiian language immersion as Federal Teacher Shortage areas ([See Federal Teacher Shortage Areas - Appendix A](#)). While agree with the redirecting of resources to support Hawaiian Immersion teachers licensure, as a faculty member charged with the recruitment and retention of immersion teachers I cannot support the strategy of placing faculty that may be displaced from other departments that may have no Hawaiian language experience to be charged with this important kuleana. This is in agreement with the Hawai'i Board of Education Policy 105-8(4) states:

The program's success is largely dependent on the capacity, capability and expertise of the program's professional staff. The Department will establish professional qualifications and develop training programs internally and/or in cooperation with stakeholder groups/universities. The goal is for program professionals to be qualified in both English as a medium of instruction and Hawaiian as a medium of instruction and Hawaiian as a medium of instruction and appropriately compensated for these additional qualifications.

Ethnic Studies & Theater and Dance

While my daily work, seeks to recruit and retain qualified teachers into the HODOE, I would be reminisce if I didn't recognize the important role that my early Ethnic Studies course played on highlighting the participation of Hawaiians in linguistic and cultural renaissance a foundation for the work that I do today. In regards to the theatre program, I have also been in awe of the Hawaiian language productions that imbue a Hawaiian aesthetic in a language that our 'ohana seeks to revive through participation in Kula Kaiapuni.

These are the kinds of innovative programs that inspire students to find their voices in hegemonic curricular spaces. These under supported programs represent the content and experiences of oppressed folks across the world and stories that need to continue to be told through degrees.

As many others have suggested, instead 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. (I ali'i ke ali'i i ke kānaka). While I understand that the knee-jerk response will be to explain how much more financial compensation similar positions would make on the continent at another university on the continent, I counter with the knowledge that this is also the case for many of the faculty members whose programs are in the line of fire through this reorganization. Faculty members that have committed themselves to this 'āina and its people, and should not have to fear that their programs will be terminated.

Mahalo nui,

Eōmailani Kukahiko, PhD

Eōmailani K. Kukahiko, Ph.D.
Specialist
Everly Hall 221
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
eomai@hawaii.edu
Virtual Office: [Zoom](#)



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 10, 2019

TO: Deputy Superintendent
Complex Area Superintendents
Principals (All)
Personnel Regional Officers
Teachers

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Kishimoto".

SUBJECT: Federal Teacher Shortage Areas

The United States Department of Education has notified the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) that its proposal to designate the following subject areas as teacher shortage areas for the 2019-2020 school year has been approved:

- Career and Technical Education;
- Language Arts – English;
- Mathematics;
- Science;
- Special Education;
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages;
- World Languages;
- World Languages – Hawaiian; and
- World Languages – Hawaiian Immersion.

This approval may benefit student grant and loan recipients who are qualified to teach in the academic subject areas listed above. These benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations, are indicated in the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFR 682.210(b)(5)(ii), (b)(7), (q), and (s) enables a borrower who had no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan on July 1, 1987, but who had an outstanding FFEL Program loan on July 1, 1993, to qualify for deferment of loan repayment under the Stafford Loan Program anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s) for up to three years of service as a full-time teacher in a private elementary or secondary school in a teacher shortage area designated by the Department, and as certified by the chief administrative officer of the particular school in which the borrower is teaching;

Deputy Superintendent, et al.
May 10, 2019
Page 2

- 34 CFR 674.53(c) enables Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who are full-time teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education, or any other field of expertise where the State educational agency determined there is a shortage of qualified teachers, to qualify for cancellation of up to 100% of the outstanding balance on the borrower's Federal Perkins loans; and
- 34 CFR 686.12(d) enables grant recipients to fulfill their teaching obligation under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program (regarding the requirement to serve at least four academic years, within eight years of graduation) by teaching in a "high-need field," which includes academic disciplines/subject areas identified as teacher shortage areas at the time the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

Stafford Loan and Supplemental Loans for Students borrowers who have questions concerning their loan(s), including the teacher shortage area deferment, should contact the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 1-800-4FED-AID.

Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who have questions concerning their loan(s) should contact the school where they received the loan.

Should you have any general questions, please contact Gabrielle Townsend, Acting Administrator, Personnel Management Branch, Office of Talent Management (OTM), at 441-8428 or via e-mail at Gabrielle_Townsend@notes.k12.hi.us.

CMK:gt

c: Dr. Philip J. Bossert, Executive Director, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools
Hawaii State Teachers Association
OTM - Teacher Recruitment



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Keep the Dance Program at UH Manoa

Director Prisma Dance <prismadirector@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:57 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, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, iezzi@hawaii.edu

Dear President David Lassner,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Department of Theatre and Dance and asking you to please consider saving and continuing this program and the dance degrees that it offers. During Covid-19, dance and the arts have been one of the hardest hit industries and have suffered the harshest restrictions. With the arts being so underfunded and unsupported by the state government it would be devastating for UH Manoa to discontinue its dance degrees in BA, BFA, MA, and MFA.

I was born and raised here on Oahu and started my own dance school as a young adult and was able to simultaneously attend UH Manoa's dance program where I proudly received a BA in dance. Through this program I learned valuable and practical skills that I applied to teaching my students and running my dance school. Now I am able to employ a dozen teachers including several that were born, raised, and trained in Hawaii. Over the past decade I have taught hundreds of children in our community, thus displaying the legacy and impact the UH dance program has had on children across our island and exposing them to the beauty and diversity of the arts that makes Hawaii one of the most unique places on earth.

Not having dance degrees in BA, BFA, MA, MFA, will force many of our talented youth to leave our islands to further their education. Rather than pushing our youth away we should be finding ways to provide our students with local dance educational opportunities, to support their own personal development as artists, and to help create job opportunities for them in the state of Hawaii.

I look forward to the swift and imminent withdrawal of the proposed cuts to the dance department, 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.

Blessings,

Nicole Lam

Director of Prisma Dance

Ph: 808-339-6579 Email: prismadirector@gmail.com



www.prismadance.com



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Urgent Save the BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures

Christian Lamer-Wolfewicz <cjwolfew@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:49 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

In deciding which colleges to attend, the University of Hawaii at Manoa stood out because of its offerings in Philippine culture and languages. Having the opportunity to be able to formally learn Tagalog and learn about my heritage, was a major factor and solidified my decision in attending Manoa. Not only have I become more aware and prouder of my Philippine heritage, I am able to better connect with my Tagalog speaking family. The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program is even of more importance to the Philippine community in Hawai'i in that it provides a college level education to the second largest population of Filipinos in the United States after California. Adding on, Manoa is only one of two universities in the country that offers such a program, and to have it removed goes against the University's proud history of diverseness, and multiethnic heritage.

Christian Lamer-Wolfewicz



Letter in Support of the Theatre and Dance program

Dylan Lee <leed7@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:42 AM

To: 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>

Aloha all,

My name is Dylan Chace Lee and I have attached my letter in support of the Theatre and Dance program, as well as, the other programs that would be receiving budgeting cuts.

Mahalo for your time,
Dylan Chace Lee

--

Dylan Chace Lee

B.A. Theatre at University of Hawaii at Manoa

Technical Director at Manoa Valley Theatre

[2833 E Manoa Rd, Honolulu, HI 96822](#)

(808)-225-9647



Lee_Dylan Letter to President Lassner.pdf

59K

Aloha President Lassner,

My name is Dylan Chace Lee and I am a recent graduate from the University of Hawai'i: Mānoa; with a degree in Theatre. I have heard the recent events happening on campus to my former department, and I am astonished. Granted we are in the midst of a pandemic, cuts to specific programs were inevitable to happen. However, I believe that the cuts being proposed are within the wrong areas.

First, I would like to say that the University is an educational institution. The cuts that have been proposed all affect educational opportunities. Not only, my former department, Theatre, but also degrees in languages, communications, journalism, travel industry management, etc. I do not need to list the programs that have been identified because you have made the proposals. As a student who was not able to leave Hawai'i to pursue higher education, I believe these cuts would have an adverse effect in enrollment. Not only will the University lose students because of the lack of substantial educational opportunities, but also students who are not able to go to an out-of-state university will be stuck within a state that currently has the third highest unemployment rate in the nation. With no degree to help them compete within an already scarce job market, these students will not get jobs to make a living.

Second, this state has shown the great benefits of tourism. However, the COVID-19 outbreak has dismantled the ideology of a "single-product" economy. There is uncertainty of when tourism will make a comeback to Hawai'i. Therefore, we must look for other pathways to grow the state's revenue. We have seen before what agriculture can do for the state. Under the right circumstances, agriculture can be an excellent way to boost the economy and be more sustainable for the state. However, you have proposed a temporary stop-out for the BS in Tropical Agriculture. That is not to say that Tropical Agriculture is our only option to rebuild the state's economy, but it is an example of what could. While on the topic of tourism, I remember that the University had been promised for a \$350 million stadium. With tourism already being on hiatus and a football team that hasn't brought much to the University, why not use those allocated funds to help keep the University afloat?

Lastly, in regards to my own department, the Theatre and Dance department at the University is one-of-a-kind. Nowhere else in the nation are you able to study different facets of performance that do not primarily focus on Western performance. A great example is the Hana Keaka program. The consistency that this program has provided for the department is unrivaled. The past two productions, *Lā'iekawai* and *'Au'a 'Ia: Holding On*, have sold out all of the performances allotted. In addition, *'Au'a 'Ia* was given the opportunity to go to New York and perform off-broadway at the Theatre for the New City where, again, they sold out every night. The Theatre department also provides key support for other majors. The nursing program often uses our graduate students in the HealthCast program that is put on by one of our own PhD. candidates. This program allows nursing students to simulate scenarios that they would face in real world situations. The Academy of Creative Media also uses the Theatre department because a majority of the actors are pooled from the Theatre department. In a time where more things are becoming digital and the general public is stuck at home with nothing to do, the outlets they seek are the Arts. Listening to music, watching Netflix, reading books, dancing on TikTok, etc.

In conclusion, I hope I have provided a substantial argument as to why the cuts being made to various programs, not just my own, are within the wrong areas. I hope you will reconsider the cuts being made to all of the suggested programs.

Mahalo for your time,
Dylan Chace Lee
B.A. Theatre



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UHM Theatre & Dance

Merrily Leong <merrily.leong@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:43 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu

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

Dear President Lassner,

We strongly believe that cuts to the Theatre and Dance programs diminish the University of Hawaii.

These programs make the University of Hawaii truly unique in the academic world, as a natural bridge to Asia. In particular, we have enjoyed the amazing performances of Indonesian music, dance, and puppetry brought to Kennedy Theatre by Professor Kirstin Pauka whom we have known for over twenty years. She carries on the tradition of giving her students a first-class education in Asian theatre and dance. Dr. Pauka's long-term working relationships with Indonesian master artists are for the good of Hawaii and the University.

Only through the University are these fine performances brought to the community. They create support and goodwill for UHM.

Please continue to fully support your Theatre and Dance programs. The future of the arts in Hawaii is at stake. Your alumni are counting on you.

Thank you,
Merrily Leong
M.A., English, 1977

Peter D. Leong
B.A., Government, 1957

University of Hawaii Alumni Association Life Members



Theatre and Dance at University of Hawaii at Manoa

Yining Lin <lin.yining@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:16 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, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, efisher@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner and the University of Hawaii Board,

My name is Dr. Yining Lin. I am a 2019 graduate in Asian and Western Comparative Theatre PhD Program and I am writing to express my support for the Theatre and Dance Program at the University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa.

I entered the Asian Theatre Doctoral Program in 2009 because, after exhaustive research, I discovered that the best program for Asian Theater scholarship was the UHM program. This program gave me the flexibility I needed to explore Asian and Western Theatre forms in a way that formed and informed the way I thought and analyzed theatre and that has carried me through to my post-graduate career.

A department like the UHM Theatre and Dance program is unique because it blends Asian and Western forms to create an intercultural blend of all forms of theatre. At the same time, the faculty encourages students to explore the latest developments in Asian and Western theatre that is informed by the classes that students are encouraged and required to take. My own dissertation on *jingju* adaptations of the Western Literature performed in the 21st century was both encouraged and developed by both Asian and Western tracks of the Theatre Department, a collaboration that I found useful and fruitful. I do not think I could find a better chair than Dr. Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak or committee in the one that I had for my dissertation.

In this time of exposing the injustices of Racial inequality and the growing racism against Asians and Asian Americans in the time of COVID-19, it would be against all of the acknowledgement statements that UHM has issued since the death of George Floyd. UHM is a hub of Asian studies and exploration in the United States and to take that away at any time would be insensitive, wrong, and closed minded.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Yining Lin, PhD.



Keep Ethnic Studies

Jhune Liwanag <jjhunelii@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:50 AM

Aloha,

My name is Jhunette Liwanag. I am an alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and heard about your plans to "stop-out" Ethnic Studies as a concentration of Interdisciplinary Studies.

I do not agree with this decision and ask you to immediately withdraw this "stop-out." Where is the evidence to prove this will result in immediate savings?

Considering Hawai'i is one of the most ethnically diverse states and the current national reckoning of race relations, it is incredibly short sighted not to see the importance of keeping the program alive.

Even the option for a "stop-out" at this point can trigger a decrease in majors, weaken Ethnic Studies, and provide no short-term cost savings to the University.

Please opt out of the "stop-out" immediately.

Mahalo,
Jhunette Liwanag



Oppose to the Proposed Option to Stop-out the Ethnic Studies Bachelor of Arts

Nanea Lo <naneaclo@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:08 PM

Hello,

I am writing to demand that the MBT acknowledge the 50 years of leadership and accomplishment of the ES Department and immediately withdraw the proposed option to "stop-out" the ES BA degree.

I was a participant when doing my undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and gained a lot of connections, life skills, and knowledge being in their program that is dire to the work that I do today.

Keep this program going indefinitely.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

Nanea Lo
Native Stories Social Media Manager, Strategist, and Podcast Host
George Washington University - N.A.P.L.P Fellow - 2020
Hawai'i Asia-Pacific Leadership - Pacific Forum Fellow - 2019-2020
Kuleana Academy - H.A.P.A. Fellow - 2019
Phone: (808)454-3504
Email: naneaclo@hawaii.edu
www.nanealo.com

'O ke kino ka hale e noho ai ka 'uhana o ke kānaka
E 'imi mau i ke ola kino maika'i
E mālamamau i ka ikaika o ke kino
E 'ai i ka mea 'ai maika'i
E 'imi mau i ka na'auao - 'ōlelo no'eau



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Opposition to proposed changes to Ethnic Studies, etc

Kyle Malashewski <kmalashe@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

It seems that, at this moment, across the country, simply being affiliated with anything that carries a whiff of 'critical race studies' -- whether you're on the street protesting injustice towards our POC brothers and sisters, or in a workplace that includes any kind of diversity or inclusivity training -- is enough to get one on the chopping block, or at least to draw the ire of much of the public and the media. It's hard to resist the urge to draw a straight line from the words and actions of the American president to the ill-considered decision to put Ethnic Studies and other programs in the crosshairs. As Ty Tengan put it so well, "At a time the nation is dealing with its greatest reckoning of racism on all fronts, and in the most ethnically diverse state, that the ethnic studies program is even possibly being considered for a stop-out, is really tone deaf to what is going on nationwide."

The proposed changes to Ethnic Studies, Dance, and other majors is unconscionable and reflects a serious lack of considered thought on the part of the MBT; at worst, it represents an act of institutional racism. To your proposed changes, I ask for clarify on:

- All plans for all units on our campus
- The authors of those plans
- The data used to come up with the plans
- The criteria
- The methodology
- Any savings projected
- Any policies cited, formally or informally
- Anything else that faculty might need to know to assess the validity and usefulness of the admin plan

In addition, I ask:

- Has the Faculty Senate been consulted as outlined in the contract?
- Are you sure that these changes are in line with the UHPA-BOR Agreement?
- Are these changes meant to address the current fiscal situation? If so, can you share what savings are expected to result from the changes?
- Are you aware of Article XVI, Retrenchment, of the UHPA-BOR Agreement? Was this reviewed and considered when these changes were proposed?

Respectfully,
Dr. Kyle Malashewski
Lecturer, English Department



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Kai Martin <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:56 AM

Reply-To: kauikm@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 Kai Martin
 Email kauikm@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 9369011
 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:

I think in the long run, the elimination of certain degree program such as theater and dance can lead to severe consequences in the enrollment of students. I strongly oppose this proposed elimination and I think there could be other things done to bring UH together as a whole instead of ripping it together to "save money during this pandemic".

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:

Kau'i Martin

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [2555 Dole St](#)
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.

Rhiannon McCullough <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:04 AM

Reply-To: rhi.mccullough@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 Rhiannon McCullough
Email rhi.mccullough@gmail.com
Phone Number (603) 7776905
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:

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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's program in Asian Theatre is unique and a draw not only for students from the mainland but also across Asia. When I was a student I had colleagues who left their respective countries of China and Japan in order to study Chinese and Japanese theatre in a way that was inaccessible to them at home. Cutting the theatre

program would not only be a shame, but a detriment to 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.

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:

Rhiannon McCullough

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 567 Unions St

State / Province: NH

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.

Catherine McDonell <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:22 PM

Reply-To: Cgm1613@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 Catherine McDonell
 Email Cgm1613@aol.com
 Phone Number (414) 2071746
 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
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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: Please keep the UH Theatre open as it is important for the community to enjoy family entertainment. It provides history of the land and all of its beauty.

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:

Catherine McDonell

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [1026 N 120th ST](#)
State / Province: Wauwatosa
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.

Micah McPharlin <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:23 PM

Reply-To: micahm25@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 Micah McPharlin

Email micahm25@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (360) 7181220

Date 03-03-1999

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
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Please add your additional comments:

UH's cultural theatre and dance courses, like Kabuki and Filipino theater, are not offered at very few institutions across the US. If not to draw out of state students, these courses drive the demand for exchange students who come to UH Manoa to take classes not offered at their home 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:

Micah McPharlin

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>

support for the UHM Theatre and Dance department

Elizabeth Merida <snowlyz@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:25 PM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Bcc: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

To Whom it May Concern,

It has come to my attention that the University of Hawai'i at Manoa is considering cutting the Dance Program as part of a broad reorganization meant to slash costs and realign goals to help drive the state's economic recovery.

I believe you are sorely mistaken. I find this news extremely upsetting. Music and dance are integral to the Hawaiian culture and to rip this higher learning application from the Hawaiian university setting would be a disgrace.

As a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Theatre and Dance program, I am deeply grateful to my experience. I found the department to be embracing of unique individuals and artistry. This program is singular among United States dance programs in providing a global awareness and point of view. As a student, I was able to study in the presence of teaching artists as well as co- students from all over the world. I gleaned insights from years of experience from international sources. Different ways of viewing, creating, and studying art. Geniuses!

I have come back to my home in New York City with this beautiful unique background to pursue my art and appreciate those of my peers.

Please, I hope you will reconsider the importance of theater and dance in these unforeseen times. We are here to offer hope and transcendence in a time of need, The performing arts are essential at this critical time for the survival of our hearts and minds.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Merida
graduate BFA 2005 department of Theatre and Dance



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of UHM Dance

Mareva Minerbi <mareva@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:02 PM

To: 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,

Please do not cut the BA, BFA, MA, and MFA offered by the UHM Dance Program. These degrees provide the education students need to become the next generation of scholars, educators, directors, creative thinkers, and dance artists in our community and abroad.

My name is Mareva Minerbi and I am an active dancer, choreographer, and educator from Honolulu, Hawai'i. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance where I received my MFA in Dance. I am currently a Lecturer in Dance at Leeward Community College. I have taught at numerous institutions including Kapi'olani Community College, University of Iowa's School of Dance, Ballet Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Ballet, Special Education Center of Hawai'i, and I was also Drama Director at Saint Francis School.

The MFA degree offered by the UHM Dance Program prepared me to teach in higher education. I started with the Distance Education program at Kapi'olani Community College. After moving abroad and living in Milan, Italy, and Iowa City, Iowa to study and perform, I was delighted to return to Honolulu to continue my studies in dance in one of the nation's most diverse dance programs that offer courses in Pacific Island, Western, and Eastern dance forms. The Dance program provided me with opportunities to direct, choreograph, and perform in shows at the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre and at Kennedy Theatre. These experiences were formative in continuing my artistic pursuits in our community and staging works at a variety of venues including Kaka'ako Agora, The Arts and Mark's Garage, Hawai'i Theatre, Mānoa Valley Theatre, Blaisdell Concert Hall, Honolulu Museum of Art, and Leeward Theatre. The Dance Program also supported my research and choreographic work at international dance conferences including The Society of Dance & History Scholars Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, Norway, and Festival À Corps in Poitiers, France. Furthermore, the Graduate Assistantship that I was awarded provided me with the experience necessary in teaching in higher education.

Additionally, Leeward Community College has recently created an Academic Certificate in Performing Arts where students can choose a focus in Dance, Music, or Theatre. I see the potential for the Colleges to work with the Dance Program to recruit students. This would permit students to continue their studies in Dance without having to leave the state and face the expensive costs of out-of-state tuition, as I did.

Dance is an integral part of art and culture in Hawai'i and the Dance Program enriches the lives of our students and our community. Without art, we don't have culture and dance is the embodiment of culture. Please do not cut the dance degrees offered at UHM.

Sincerely,

Mareva Minerbi

Mareva Minerbi
Lecturer in Dance
Arts and Humanities
Leeward Community College
[96-045 Ala Ike, Pearl City, HI 96782](#)
mareva@hawaii.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Mareva Minerbi <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:04 PM

Reply-To: mareva@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	Mareva Minerbi
Email	mareva@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 388-7881
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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Signature



Name:

Mareva Minerbi

9/15/2020

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

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.



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

Mareva Minerbi <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:36 PM

Reply-To: mareva@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



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 Email mareva@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 388-7881
 Date 09-15-2020
 Letter Heading To:
 UHM President David President Lassner

CC:
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 Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin
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Please do not cut the BA, BFA, MA, and MFA degrees offered by the Dance Program. These degrees provide the education students need to become the next generation of scholars, educators, directors, creative thinkers, and dance artists in our community and abroad.

My name is Mareva Minerbi and I am an active dancer, choreographer, and educator from Honolulu, Hawai'i. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance where I received my MFA in Dance. I am currently a Lecturer in Dance at Leeward Community College. I have taught at numerous institutions including Kapi'olani Community College, University of Iowa's School of Dance, Ballet Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Ballet, Special Education Center of Hawai'i, and I was also Drama Director at Saint Francis School.

The MFA degree offered by the UHM Dance Program prepared me to teach in higher education. I started with the Distance Education program at Kapi'olani Community College. After moving abroad and living in Milan, Italy, and Iowa City, Iowa to study and perform, I was delighted to return to Honolulu to continue my studies in dance in one of the nation's most diverse dance programs that offer courses in Pacific Island, Western, and Eastern dance forms. The Dance program provided me with opportunities to direct, choreograph, and perform in shows at the Earl Earnst Lab Theatre and at Kennedy Theatre. These experiences were formative in continuing my artistic pursuits in our community and staging works at a variety of venues including Kaka'ako Agora, The Arts and Mark's Garage, Hawai'i Theatre, Mānoa Valley Theatre, Blaisdell Concert Hall, Honolulu Museum of Art, and Leeward Theatre. The Dance Program also supported my research and choreographic work at international dance conferences including The Society of Dance & History Scholars Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, Norway, and Festival À Corps in Poitiers, France. Additionally, the Graduate Assistantship that I was awarded provided me with the experience necessary in teaching in higher education.

Additionally, Leeward Community College has recently created an Academic Certificate in Performing Arts where students can choose a focus in Dance, Music, or Theatre.

I see the potential for the Colleges to work with the Dance Program to recruit students. This would permit students to continue their studies in Dance without having to leave the state and face the expensive costs of out-of-state tuition, as I did.

Dance is an integral part of art and culture in Hawai'i and the Dance Program enriches the lives of our students and our community. Please do not cut the dance degrees offered at UHM. Without art, we don't have a culture and dance is the embodiment of culture.

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:

Mareva Minerbi

9/16/2020

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

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.



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

Shigeru Miyamoto <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:08 PM

Reply-To: shigerum@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 Shigeru Miyamoto

Email shigerum@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 732-0733

Date 09-15-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President LassnerCC:
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:

-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 totally support the dance and all the Arts and Humanities programs that nurture the human soul. Without the Arts and Humanities, there is no culture.

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:

Shigeru Miyamoto

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: PO Box 61325, Honolulu

State / Province: HI

Country: United States

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



The need for Religious Studies at UH Manoa

Michel Mohr <mmohr@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:41 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen, honorable members of the Board of Regents,

My testimony is written for the simple and straightforward purpose of presenting some of the reasons why the discipline of Religious Studies matters for UH Manoa, and why the Department of Religion constitutes a crucial asset for our university. The Department of Religion was founded by Mitsuo Aoki (1914–2010) in 1956 for the sake of providing both students and the local community with a better understanding of world religions, with a special emphasis on the various religious traditions present on the Hawaiian Islands. No single institution in the US puts such a unique emphasis on the Pacific and Asian religions, and UH Manoa currently has the privilege of hosting a unit producing first-rate scientific research and education on all the sensitive questions related to religiosity and spirituality. Without this type of education, students and the public tend to become unsuspecting targets for all stripes of religious groups eager to exploit their credulity.

Those who are less familiar with the discipline of Religious Studies tend to confuse it with Theology or other faith-based approaches. The Department of Religion's faculty members are precisely promoting the opposite, and each class is designed with Student Learning Outcomes including the development of critical thinking, and devices aimed at encouraging students to question received ideas. Thanks to its inter-disciplinary nature, the discipline of Religious Studies uses a wide range of data produced in other fields, including but not limited to Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and History. Thus, it does not need any prodding to reach out to other disciplines, because this trait is embedded in its very fabric.

Regarding the superficial plans of reorganization and cuts that have been circulated throughout the UH academic community, their authors displayed a total lack of familiarity with both the nature of the Humanities in general and of Religious Studies in particular. For a specialist working in Nuclear Physics, would it make sense to combine that person's expertise with that of a Microbiologist in the same unit? Or what about combining Business majors with Sociology students? These are the types of superficial proposals that have been circulated, undermining the morale of all faculty members and of the UH community in general.

In short, UH Manoa needs a strong Department of Religion, which can contribute to the undergraduate education of all students through its courses pertaining to General Education. The Graduate Program of the Department of Religion is equally crucial, because it constitutes the conduit through which future teachers, instructors, and faculty members are produced. Even a quick glance at the webpage listing the Department of Religion's alumni <https://www.hawaii.edu/religion/alumni/> shows how many of them have landed important teaching jobs both in Hawaii and on the mainland.

Before making any change that would affect the composition of the Department of Religion, I urge you to consider the reputation of this unit, nationally and internationally, and to consult experts who are familiar with this field. Those sitting on the Board of Regents in September 2020 should be aware of their responsibility toward future generations, since even tacitly endorsing changes may have unforeseen consequences for future generations, especially if they become incapable of analyzing religious traditions. The pandemic will be gone, hopefully soon, but fundamental transformations in how Religious Studies are being taught here could undermine the intellectual foundations of our student population for a much longer period of time. There is a reason why Religion classes are considered Foundations Courses.

Should you need further information regarding the Department of Religion's previous accomplishments or projects for the future, please feel free to reach out to me.

Respectfully yours,
Michel Mohr

Michel Mohr, Professor
Department of Religion
University of Hawaii
2530 Dole Street, Sakamaki Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822
<http://michelmoor.com>
<http://www.hawaii.edu/religion/>



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Letter AGAINST Proposed Cuts to the Department of Theatre & Dance

Alexander Munro <abmunro@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:55 PM

To: 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>, Julie Iezzi <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, Elizabeth Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

Please find attached my letter against the proposed cuts to the Department of Theatre & Dance. In my letter, I lift up a collaboration between the Department of Theatre & Dance and the School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene known as HealthCAST to demonstrate how a rich and thriving theatre and dance program contributes to the vital mission of training future healthcare providers.

With aloha,

Alex Munro, MFA
HealthCAST Graduate Assistant
Translational Health Science Simulation Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

 **MUNRO_Letter AGAINST Proposed Cuts to the Department of Theatre & Dance.pdf**
97K

September 15, 2020

To:

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

CC:

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
Peter Arnade, Dean of CALL
Tom Brislin, Associate Dean of CALL
Kimi Kondo-Brown, Associate Dean of CALL
Julie Iezzi, Associate Chair of Theatre
Betsy Fisher, Associate Chair of Dance
Markus Wessendorf, Chair of Theatre & Dance

Dear President Lassner,

My name is Alex Munro and I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Theatre & Dance. I write in strong opposition to the proposed cuts to the theatre and dance programs. You have received hundreds of passionate and eloquent letters from our students, faculty, alumni, and community members that speak to the many strengths of our Department of Theatre & Dance and why it is imperative that you reconsider your proposal. In my letter, I wish to lift up a collaboration between the Department of Theatre & Dance and the School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene known as HealthCAST to demonstrate how a rich and thriving theatre and dance program contributes to the vital mission of training future healthcare providers.

In an August 13 paper titled, “Post-Pandemic Hawai‘i and the University of Hawai‘i,” you identified Health Care and Social Welfare as one of the current sectors with “systemic shortages in which there is opportunity now” for gainful employment (2). You listed several qualities that UH needs to instill in its learners, including the “need to be empathetic citizens with cultural competence” (ibid.) And, you presented a call to action that included a “need to leverage the full complement of UH resources and capabilities across our campuses to educate health care professionals affordably and effectively...” (3). HealthCAST is one of those resources.

HealthCAST was developed in 2013, in part, to help healthcare learners strengthen their empathetic communication skills through interactions with simulated patients recruited from the Department of Theatre & Dance. HealthCAST mostly supports simulation scenarios that involve heightened emotional and psychosocial concerns, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, end-of-life decision making, oncology, and post-partum depression. The actors provide a level of realism to the simulation experience that facilitates authentic, experiential learning for the healthcare students. One of the most profound aspects of HealthCAST, however, occurs *after* the simulation performance where the actors provide invaluable feedback to the healthcare learners about how they felt under their care. This helps the healthcare learners strengthen their empathetic communication skills and equips them to better care for actual patients and their families.

HealthCAST originally supported three scenarios in the undergraduate nursing curriculum but the demand from healthcare faculty and students has expanded the program beyond nursing.

HealthCAST now supports simulation scenarios across the undergraduate and graduate nursing curricula, the undergraduate dental hygiene curriculum, and several interprofessional simulations that include learners from medicine, pharmacy, social work, dietetics, and spiritual care. Healthcare learners consistently affirm through post-simulation evaluations the profound effect the theatre and dance students have on their overall educational experience. They describe the simulations as “more realistic” and often comment on how they forget that their patient was an actor. They also express their appreciation for receiving honest and constructive feedback from the theatre and dance students who performed as their simulated patients.

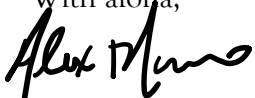
HealthCAST has also supported healthcare education beyond the University of Hawai‘i system. HealthCAST supported two separate visits from the Tokyo Nurses’ Association who wanted to prepare their healthcare providers for non-Japanese patients who may need care during the Tokyo Olympics. This past summer, HealthCAST supported the Contact Tracing Training Program provided by the State of Hawai‘i. Four graduate students from the Department of Theatre & Dance helped train nearly 400 potential contact tracers to help the State of Hawai‘i curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Graduate students, especially in our Master of Fine Arts programs, are crucial to HealthCAST’s continued success. The Department of Theatre & Dance adjusted the duties of its graduate assistantships so that at least one third of their time is devoted to performing in HealthCAST-supported simulation scenarios. The School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, recognizing the value of HealthCAST, currently funds two graduate students from the Department of Theatre and Dance: one to recruit and train simulated patients (my position) and another to exclusively perform in simulation scenarios. However, despite this stable core of actors, the demand for simulated patients necessitates volunteers recruited throughout the Department of Theatre & Dance.

Finally, HealthCAST is not just a job; it is also a key component of my doctoral dissertation. My work with HealthCAST has allowed me to present at conferences here in Honolulu, on the continent, and internationally. I have also been fortunate to co-author several articles and abstracts that discuss the positive impact of HealthCAST on simulation activities in healthcare education.

HealthCAST is a vital resource that contributes to the growth and development of our future healthcare providers, as well as our future actors and dancers. HealthCAST demonstrates the importance of a strong and thriving Department of Theatre & Dance and how so many of our academic programs are intertwined; cut one strand and the entire web unravels. Therefore, I strongly urge you again to reconsider your proposed cuts to the Department of Theatre & Dance.

With aloha,



Alex Munro, MFA

abmunro@hawaii.edu



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

Karissa Murrell Myers <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:20 PM

Reply-To: kmurrellmyers@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	Karissa Murrell Myers
Email	kmurrellmyers@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 2270309
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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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:

I am a MFA graduate of the UHM Dept of Theatre and Dance. I now work in Chicago professionally as an actor, producer, playwright, and casting director. I am able to pursue the career I have specifically because of the training I received at UH. Proposing to cut these essential programs is a travesty. The arts are more than necessary

and to treat them as disposal is outrageous. 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 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:

Karissa Murrell Myers

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [5934 N Paulina St #3](#)

State / Province: Chicago, IL

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.

Jarrah Myles <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:06 PM

Reply-To: jmyles@inspirechico.orgTo: 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	Jarrah Myles
Email	jmyles@inspirechico.org
Phone Number	(530) 2307676
Date	09-03-1977
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:

These programs save lives, build life long skills, and preserve culture.

Letter Body:

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Signature



Name:

Jarrah L. Myles Jarrah

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Chico

State / Province: CA

Country: United States

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



Testimony Regarding Proposals for Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies

Jacob Noa <noajacob@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:30 PM

Aloha to the UH Mānoa Board of Regents,

My name is Jacob Noa and I am a recent Spring 2020 graduate of UH Mānoa with a BA in American Studies and a Certificate in Women's Studies. I am a Kanaka Maoli and a proud former student of both the departments of Ethnic Studies (ES) and Women's Studies (WS). As an alumni of these programs, I adamantly oppose the recent proposals to move the ES and WS departments to Interdisciplinary Studies and any potential moves to stop-out these programs. Targeting these essential programs in the name of budgetary concerns is a blatant example of institutional racism and sexism. Given the current situation regarding ongoing protests in the U.S. for racial justice, these proposals by the university are extremely tone-deaf. The departments of ES and WS must remain autonomous and exempt from COVID-19 related budget cuts—as both departments provide some of the most valuable educational opportunities and learning environments at UH Mānoa, especially for students most marginalized on the bases of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status.

I would also like to request information regarding how the proposals to have Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies "partner" with Interdisciplinary Studies would result in an increase in majors for either of these programs. In addition, how would these suggestions contribute to the committee's cost-cutting measures? I fail to understand or recognize how cutting back the autonomy of these programs would somehow lead to an increase in enrollment in either program. Further, removing autonomy and potentially cutting-back on these programs is a disservice to the many students at UH Mānoa, including myself, who have found spaces of safety, community, and academic intrigue in the Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies programs.

I can personally attest to the plethora of ways in which Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies enriched my experience as an Indigenous student at UH Mānoa. Academically, these departments housed the most challenging and analytically-rigorous courses I have taken at UHM. The faculty and their painstakingly crafted courses helped to develop both my attentiveness and motivation as a scholar whose aim is to work toward positive social change in Hawai'i. In addition to developing my skills as an academic, I was able to gain invaluable experiential and place-based learning opportunities due to Ethnic Studies' heavy focus on service learning with ACCESS Engagement. Through service learning, I was able to work with amazing groups such as Mālama I Nā Ahupua'a and UNITE HERE! Local 5, eventually obtaining an internship with the latter. From my many experiences with Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies, they are extremely capable and functional departments, with faculty bodies that care deeply about their students and have consistently developed strong leaders in Hawai'i and abroad for social justice. They must remain autonomous and be supported in their efforts to graciously serve and empower students just as they have for the past 50 years.

I stand in solidarity with the departments of Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, American Studies, Dance, Theatre, and others in asking that the university reconsider such unfair proposals that have come about in the name of austerity and COVID-19 related budgetary concerns. These programs reflect the values of social justice, creativity, and innovation that UH must strive to uphold, especially during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Jacob Noa

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

Tiffany O'Neill <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:08 PM

Reply-To: tmoneill@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 Tiffany O'Neill
 Email tmoneill@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (619) 6085200
 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:

I am also in the music program and think that it is imperative to keep arts in this school because Hawaii's culture and history are told and expressed through music 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.

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:

Tiffany ONeill

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>

Testimony In Support of Women's Studies at UHM

JOSEPHINE FAITH ONG <josephineong25@ucla.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:34 AM

My name is Josephine Ong, a Ph.D. student in Gender Studies at UCLA that is originally from the island of Guam. I am writing in solidarity with the Women's Studies Department at UHM, where my colleagues such as Dr. Lani Teves and Dr. Monisha Das Gupta teach. UHM's leadership in Pacific Islands Studies is unparalleled in comparison to other colleges in the United States, especially when it comes to the path-breaking work of Pacific Islander feminists like Dr. Teves.

Therefore, I would like to ask if and how the Manoa Budget Team's proposal would actually increase the number of majors for Women's Studies and contribute to the cost-cutting measures at UH.

Furthermore, I am writing in support of an autonomous Women's Studies status that would allow the department to maintain its currently function and growing learning environment. Building a relationship with Interdisciplinary Studies would restrict and disrupt this growth in a way that would negatively impact both departments, who have both not been provided any guidance on how such policies would influence student learning.

In addition, as a Gender Studies scholar specializing in Filipino women's activism and care work in Guam, I am appalled at UHM's inclusion of Women's Studies in university budget cuts. When most of care work and crucial essential work lies upon women, it is incredibly important to emphasize and amplify the education Women's Studies provides, rather than cut it down at a time when it is so important

Finally, I stand in solidarity with other programs such as the Ethnic Studies program, which educated my mentor Dean I. Saranillio and whose faculty Jonathan Okamura and Rod Labrador have significantly influenced my work. I hope that UHM reevaluates its current priorities to truly focus on the critical values of creativity, social justice, and innovation that both these programs advocate and practice.

Best,

--

Josephine Ong, M.A. (she/her/hers)
Ph.D. Student, Gender Studies
University of California, Los Angeles

UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to Honuukvetam (ancestors), 'Ahihirom, (elders) and 'eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Nadezna Ortega

Nadezna Ortega <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:36 PM

Reply-To: nadezna@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Nadezna Ortega
Email	nadezna@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Faculty
Phone Number	(808) 2553410
Date	09-15-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Signature



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.

Victor Palmeri <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:11 PM

Reply-To: victor.palmeri@mail.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 Victor Palmeri
 Email victor.palmeri@mail.com
 Phone Number (808) 7260613
 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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-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, myself, was the victim of similar cuts made during my undergraduate degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1988. The entire arts department was cut and there was a distinct understanding that high-quality students were deciding to go elsewhere. After many years the Board reinstated the arts department and now is

considered one of the pillars of strength at my Alma Mater. Don't make the same mistake RPI did.....

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:

Victor Palmeri

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Hilo

State / Province: Hawaii

Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

PHLL Testimony September 15, 2020, J. Pascual

Jairah Mae Pascual <jairah@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:53 PM

Hello,

My name is Jairah Mae Pascual and I am a Public Health student in the process of declaring Philippine Language and Culture: Ilokano as my secondary major. Attached is a testimony talking about the importance of the Ilokano program and my support against the stop-out BA. Thank you.

Best regards,
Jairah Mae Pascual

--

Jairah Mae C. Pascual

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2021

B.A. Candidate in Public Health

jairah@hawaii.edu



Pascual, Jairah_ Ilokano Program Testimony.pdf
34K

September 15, 2020

Hello! My name is Jairah Mae Pascual and I am in the process of declaring Philippines Language and Culture: Ilokano as my secondary major. I am currently waiting for my primary major, Public Health to sign the documents in order for me to send it to the Advising Center for College of Arts and Humanities and Languages, Linguistics and Literature. Like many students, I wasn't aware that we had an Ilokano program till I was researching what course to take to fulfill my language requirement for graduation. Prior to taking Ilokano courses, I could speak enough to hold a conversation and my writing could be better but it was alright. Now, because of the Ilokano program, I am more confident in my speaking, comprehension and writing skills.

I can't imagine this program not existing because of how much it helped me grow personally, academically and how I will use it in my professional career. Personally, I have never felt so comfortable speaking Ilokano with anyone outside of my family. I was born and raised in the Philippines till my family moved here when I was six years old. Throughout elementary, middle and high school, I have never felt comfortable enough to talk to anyone outside of my family in Ilokano because people used to make fun and call me names for speaking the language and having an accent. For the past two years, the Ilokano program became my safe place. Being in class and surrounded by the friends I've made, I have never felt so happy. The Ilokano program and the people in it, made me feel so comfortable and I can't imagine students missing out in being part of this safe space.

Academically, the Ilokano program provides an opportunity for students to learn the Ilokano language, culture and grows one's identity. By this, be comfortable with speaking Ilokano and have actual conversations with family members (parents, grandparents, etc) and friends. Learning to be fluent in Ilokano has made my family so proud because I am learning their mother tongue and taking the initiative to learn more about my culture. The DramaFest that is usually held towards the end of every semester gave me an opportunity to showcase how well I am learning Ilokano. I did not only receive a confidence boost but it gave me a chance to practice my Ilokano outside a classroom space.

Being able to speak Ilokano is an invaluable skill to have, especially since I want to work with the Filipino community. Working with the community is part of Public Health and someday, I would like to create health materials and programs that are beneficial and necessary for the Filipino community. From personal experience, it's hard to ask for help and understand what is being told to you about your health if you don't speak or understand English well enough. I am hoping that once people are aware and know that I can speak and understand Ilokano, they would feel more comfortable and more willing to talk.

Overall, the Ilokano program plays a big role in various aspects of my personal, academic and professional life. I am in complete disagreement with the proposed stop-out of the BA and should not follow through. Keeping the Ilokano program which promotes diversity should be appreciated and kept. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Mahalo!



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Ana Pearse <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:36 PM

Reply-To: anarosephoto123@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 Ana Pearse
 Email anarosephoto123@gmail.com
 Phone Number (208) 7147454
 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
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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: CUTTING THESE PROGRAMS IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND IT WILL HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON COUNTLESS PEOPLE.

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:

Ana Pearse

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



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

Phoenicia Pettyjohn <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:04 AM

Reply-To: ppettyjohn@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	Phoenicia Pettyjohn
Email	ppettyjohn@hotmail.com
Phone Number	(415) 5059824
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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-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 pk-12 arts educator. It's imperative that we have quality arts education throughout the educational sectors. This is how we grow the next generation of artists and empathetic and creative thinkers. This is the investment in the coming generations to help solve world's problem. This is the place where voices are cultivated so that the world can hear them and be formed anew.

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:

Phoenicia Pettyjohn

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [1411 golden gate ave](#)

State / Province: Sanfrancisco Ca

Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

9/17/20 meeting re: Academic and Student Affairs

Luna Porras <lporras@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:19 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: eschair@hawaii.edu

To whom it may concern,

My name is Luna Porras and I am a junior level undergraduate here at UH Mānoa. I am writing to you regarding the proposed merging and possible resurgence of another "stop-out" for the program of Ethnic Studies. As a student, I demand the BOR and whomever the team projecting these ideas concerning "low enrollment" programs be combined or done away with completely, meet the programs where they are at. I understand that the current COVID-19 economy has created a challenging budget for everyone, but in this climate, programs similar to and including Ethnic Studies are pivotal to a well-rounded education.

I am currently taking an Ethnic Studies class (ES486: People's of Hawai'i) and thoroughly enjoying it. Professor Kajihira is integrating creative and familiar ways to symbolize and illuminate race relations in Hawai'i. This class is fulfilling an elective credit for me but the things I am learning will not only enhance my BA in Sociology degree but also add to the experience I am having as a guest in O'ahu. Like I said earlier, classes in the Ethnic Studies realm help to educate and create conversation among groups that may not have space in everyday society, therefore it is of most importance that ES is taken seriously.

I urge you to go forward with accountability and transparency by meeting with all involved and affected parties and providing complete and thorough reasoning and data for the proposals that may come as you navigate the budget. As society is changing, I can only hope that the school I choose to call home stands for what is pono and justice-minded.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Luna Porras



Strongly oppose the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks)

Patricia Pringle <patricia@japanesetoyou.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:19 AM

Reply-To: patricia@japanesetoyou.com

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

Dear President Lassner,

I have heard through my academic association, the Association for Asian Performance (AAP), that UH is planning to cut Theatre and Dance programs, including the doctoral program in Asian Theatre. As an alum (Ph.D., Japanese Theatre, UH, 1999), who now works in the private sector, I am shocked that UH would cut a program that has had its roots at UH over 100 years ago, and contributes greatly to the prestige of the university in Asian countries such as Japan (my professional area). The UH Theatre Department has remarkable deep ties with professional theatre in Japan. Maintaining these ties requires the continuity of students who enter the MA for MFA program and progress into the depth and maturity of doctoral studies. I appreciate that there are budget constraints at the state and university level, but to cut a unique and well-established doctoral program that provides such international goodwill for the university seems extremely short sighted. I would like to add my voice to those of current students, faculty, and colleagues around the word to say that I too, strongly oppose the proposed elimination of degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, Ph.D., reduction of MFA tracks).

Best regards,

Patricia Pringle

Patricia Pringle, Ph.D.

American Translators Association (ATA) Certified Japanese to English Translator

Grader, ATA Japanese to English Certification Exam

Japan-America Communications, LLC

[3209 Springcrest Drive](#)

[Louisville KY 40241](#)

Tel: 502-420-7993

Cell: 502-240-9375

patricia@japanesetoyou.com

Providing quality Japanese language services for over 20 years



URGENT: Save Philippine Languages and Literatures Program

Sheila Marie Ringor <ringors@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:59 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: nadezna@hawaii.edu, deand@hawaii.edu, Sheila Marie Ringor <ringors@hawaii.edu>

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi my name is Sheila Ringor, I am currently in my 3rd year at UH Manoa. I am emailing regarding the proposed stop-out of the BA in Philippine Language and Literature. Within this email, I have attached a pdf file of a letter for the UH Board of Regents regarding this topic.

Best,
Sheila

--

Sheila Marie Ringor

University of Hawaii at Manoa

BA Candidate in Sustainability Studies

BA Candidate in Political Science

Mānoa Peer Advisor | [Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work](#)



Letter to the UH Board of Regents .pdf

35K

To the UH Board of Regents,

Hello, my name is Sheila Ringor, I am currently in my 3rd year at UH Mānoa double majoring in Political Science and Sustainability Studies with a minor in Filipino. Filipinos make up 25% of the population in Hawai‘i and we make up 11% of the student body at UH Mānoa. 11% of those students find themselves connected to the Philippine Languages and Literatures program either through Ilokano or Tagalog. The program itself is very important to many of us as it is one way we represent ourselves in Hawai‘i, and this is where we manage to reconnect with our roots as we are thousands of miles away from home. The Philippine Languages and Literatures program does not only teach their students about languages but this is a place where most of us learn about our history, cultures, and traditions. For example, I’ve taken FIL 401, 402, and I am currently taking IP 370. Within FIL 401 and 402, I was able to meet diaspora Filipinos who made their way up from FIL 101 to these high level courses since they were determined to learn the language, and it was a way for them to reclaim their Filipino identity. I was able to make a deep connection with the people within these courses and especially within the program, I found a sense of community at the University to which I struggled to find during my freshman year of college. Currently, with IP 370 Philippine Travelogue: Peoples, Places, and Practices, we learn about the Indigenous people of the Philippines, which is not commonly taught. This is why many are uneducated with this topic that lead to the result of othering Indigenous tribes in the Philippines from the dominant “mainstream” Filipinos. But IP 370 gave me a sense of hope that as more people become aware of the Indigenous people of the Philippines, we can put an end to the continuous battle that these tribes have to face from being looked down upon as well as being displaced from their own land.

Overall, being part of the program has made my academic career much more valuable because I felt accomplished and connected with my people. With the plan of budget cuts and the proposed “stop-out of the BA in Philippine Language and Literature”, I believe that this will bring no good to Filipinos and non-Filipinos that were able to find home within the program. Such act also go against what UH Mānoa has been advertising towards their students which is “diversity and inclusion”, there is no diversity and inclusion in a place where departments such as Ethnic Studies, Women Studies, Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL), and so on are continuously being targeted with budget cuts and “stop-outs”. Majority of the people within these departments are people of color, the Philippine Language and Culture hosts vulnerable communities in Hawai‘i such as Filipinos. During these trying times with COVID-19 as well as BLM movements in Hawai‘i and the continental U.S., this sudden budget cuts for these departments are almost undeniably an act of institutional racism.

Sincerely,
Sheila Ringor



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

No Merger of Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies or Theater & Dance Programs

Kirisitina Sailiata <ksailiat@macalester.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:59 AM

Dear University of Hawai'i-Manoa Board of Regents,

My name is Kirisitina Sailiata and I am a postdoctoral fellow in American Studies at Macalester College. I am writing to urge you all to reconsider merging the units of Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, as well as Theater and Dance.

In this political climate more than ever, these three units are important strongholds of understanding the shared pasts, present and future of the United States but most importantly in leading the conversations about Hawai'i and the particular formations of power that structure everyday life. This knowledge and these frameworks and these practices of social justice, art and (un)learning are integral to a vibrant, more just, and more informed community locally, nationally and globally.

What are the details involved in this proposal to merge these units with Interdisciplinary Studies? How will the Manoa Budget Team contend with the increase in the number of majors for these units? What are the numbers that this proposal is based upon? Where is the evidence that this merger will actually save money in the long run at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa and at what "true" cost?

I urge you to remove these units from the post-COVID initiative of budget cuts. These departments provide much needed context and knowledge. These programs represent multiple intellectual histories and genealogies that are not easily quantifiable but that contribute to the strength and vitality of scholarship in their respective fields as well the significance and importance of a liberal arts education.

Sincerely,
Kiri Sailiata

--

Kirisitina G. Sailiata, Ph.D.

CFD Postdoctoral Fellow 2019-2021

Department of American Studies

Macalester College, St Paul, MN

ksailiat@macalester.edu / (651) 696-6648

www.kirisailiata.com



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

I oppose the stop-out; Ethnic Studies Department is Essential

Ashley Hi'ilani Sanchez <ashleys9@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:34 PM

Aloha mai kākou,

I am a current graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I am writing to demand the targeting of the Ethnic Studies Department be ceased immediately. A weakening of Ethnic Studies and decrease in ES majors will likely be caused by opting for a stop-out, which is a major detriment to ES students, ES faculty, and the wider UH community. There is no immediate cost savings for the University of Hawai'i, and if there is evidence to the contrary, I ask this be presented publicly and thoroughly.

The consideration of removing the Ethnic Studies department is founded in racism, white supremacy, and an obscene lack of value toward the multitudes of ethnicities which uniquely make up Hawai'i. Racism and white supremacy are traditions long upheld at the University of Hawai'i, so while the maneuver to reduce the ES department is expected, it remains highly problematic and counterproductive to creating 1) a Hawaiian place of learning, 2) a diverse and inclusive campus, and 3) an anti-racist culture among UH staff, students, and faculty.

Diminishing the Ethnic Studies department is unacceptable and must be swiftly and wholly rejected.

Mahalo for your consideration.

E mālama pono,
Ashley Hi'ilani Sanchez



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

Cassandra Sanchez <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:15 PM

Reply-To: cassdsan14@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	Cassandra Sanchez
Email	cassdsan14@gmail.com
Phone Number	(619) 8825524
Date	06-14-2001
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
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:

Arts, in all aspects beyond local Hawai'i, construct a bond. It's an international way to commune people of different backgrounds, to one thing we love. In your case, theater and dance, the dedication your students have to these majors are undeniable and a big contributor to maintaining a cultural foundation alive and well at Mānoa.

Please reconsider your decision on these cuts moving forward.

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."

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:

Cassandra Sanchez

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Chula Vista

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.

Sara Savusa <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:30 AM

Reply-To: sarasavusa@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 Sara Savusa
Email sarasavusa@gmail.com
Phone Number (808) 2265509
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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-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:

Without my education at UH, I would not be the theatre professional I am today, and it is very special the majority of my classmates are also working theatre/film professionals. Learning Western, Asian, and Hawaiian performance styles provides such a rich education and world view that mainland programs are lacking.

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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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

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Signature



Name:

Sara Savusa

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Chicago

State / Province: IL

Country: United States

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Becca Schmidt <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:12 AM

Reply-To: becca@thethorn.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, 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 Becca Schmidt
 Email becca@thethorn.net
 Phone Number (865) 6032582
 Date 11-07-1986
 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 a vital part of the arts community that this world desperately needs right now.

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:

Becca Schmidt

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

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

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

Ellen Schroeder <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:13 PM

Reply-To: evanspyk@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 Ellen Schroeder
 Email evanspyk@gmail.com
 Phone Number (510) 9109098
 Date 01-15-2020
 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:

UHM theatre contributes boldly to the curriculum at this state school. It was a highlight of campus life to attend the culturally diverse performances during my years as a resident student in the early 1970s. My daughter earned her PhD. in the dept. and is currently a professor of theater at UH Hilo.

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 VanSpyk

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [24507 San Mateo Ave. Carmel, CA](#)

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.

Margaret Shade <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:09 AM

Reply-To: maggi.shade@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 Margaret Shade
 Email maggi.shade@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 2629132
 Date 12-23-1958
 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 benefited from classes taken at the UH Theatre Department, which led to my doing further work at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the BBC, and the National Theatre. So many of us benefited enormously from our education at the UH Dept of Drama and Theatre. We are everywhere, in every country and walk of life. Cutting off programmes in a rare multicultural and

multiethnic education in the Performing Arts at the UH is a kind of aesthetic vandalism - as if we humans have now become so debased that the Arts no longer matter.

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:

Margaret Shade

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Exeter

State / Province: Devon

Country: United Kingdom

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



Letter re Ethnic Studies

Nitasha Tamar Sharma <n-sharma@northwestern.edu>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>
Cc: Nitasha Tamar Sharma <n-sharma@northwestern.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:30 AM

To the President of the University of Hawaii and administrators,
As you can see from my signature line I am an associate professor of Asian American studies and African American studies at Northwestern University where I am also the director of Asian American studies. I write to you as a faculty member in ethnic studies, but my primary identity is as a girl born and raised in Manoa Valley. I am the daughter of two University of Hawaii emeriti professors: Dr. Jagdish Sharma who was in the history department for over four decades, and Dr. Miriam Sharma who was a founding director of ethnic studies at the University of Hawaii Manoa.

News of the misguided decisions of the University of Hawaii administration toward ethnic studies, women's studies, and other related programs was shocking and embarrassing. Anything other than a deepened commitment to and investment in ethnic studies at this time is ill advised.

There systemic anti-black racism that is rooted not only in institutions of higher education and cities on the continental United States; Black Lives Matter is a movement to be paid attention to in the islands of Hawaii as well. This has everything to do with ethnic studies as the head of the Hawaii police Department Susan Ballard has commented on how difficult it is to be haole in Hawaii without any understanding or recognition of systemic racism. The Popolo Project in Hawaii has also documented the experiences of Black people in the islands. The experiences of Black people in Hawaii is not a footnote to the study of ethnic studies in the islands. I have written a book on Hawaii's Black residents and this ethnography is coming out from Duke university press next year. What does this have to do with the decision to suffocate the ethnic studies department at the University of Hawaii?

You currently have one faculty member who focuses on the experiences of Black people in the Pacific and that is Dr. Ethan Caldwell in the University of Hawaii ethnic studies department. Doctor Caldwell was my PhD advisee at Northwestern University and he studies the experiences of Black soldiers and Okinawans in Okinawa. He is part of the extremely small number of Black faculty at the University of Hawaii. Other experts in the ethnic studies department have national and international reputations for their scholarship. The work of Jonathan Okamura cannot be replicated and his astounding rate of scholarship has informed the study of Asian Americans in Hawaii and Asian Settler Colonialism around the world. The current chair Ty Tengan is a renowned scholar of Hawaiians in Hawaii and of veterans. He has done an unbelievable amount of service work as the chair of the department and as someone who is a frequent collaborator of award-winning journal issues and as a go to scholar for questions on race in Hawaii. Monisha DasGupta is renowned among South Asian American study scholars in the field of American studies, Women's Studies, and Ethnic Studies writ large. Scholars I grew up with—Ibrahim Aoude, Noel Kent, Davi McGregor—have made your department a first class one who's books we assign across the nation in our courses.

To do anything other than invest in and expand the ethnic studies department is a damn shame. As someone who was born and raised in Hawaii and who has dedicated the last 10 years of her life to conducting research on Black peoples' lives in the Hawaiian islands and as the daughter of two forty plus year professors at the University of Hawaii including the founding director of the ethnic studies program, I am ashamed to hear what the administration has decided.

Please pay attention to what is happening nationally and do not be fooled by the exceptionalism and distance of Hawaii from the continental United States. Ethnic Studies at UHM—it's faculty and undergraduate students—are respected at our universities. We must recognize and understand how race ethnicity and indigeneity operate; we have to understand the relationships between Filipinos, Samoans, Micronesians, Hawaiians and other groups and it is the ethnic studies scholars at the University of Hawaii who are the ones who make this legible.

A'ole to cutting or otherwise doing anything except expanding the ethnic studies department. Shame on you for thinking INCREASING numbers of Ethnic Studies is not what we need right now. I hope to hear that you have come to your senses in the near future

Mahalo nui loa,
Professor Sharma
Northwestern University

Nitasha Sharma
Director, Asian American Studies Program
Director of Graduate Studies, African American Studies Department

Associate Professor
African American Studies, Asian American Studies
Northwestern University

n-sharma@northwestern.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

John Signor <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 7:45 AM

Reply-To: signor@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 John Signor
 Email signor@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 295-3623
 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: The Performing Arts are treated as "electives" in our educational "system". This attitude is shameful, and reveals so much about our culture. The Arts are essential to developing balance and wellbeing, both in the individual and in 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:

John Signor

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.



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - John Smith

John Smith <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:27 PM

Reply-To: john@example.com

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	John Smith
Email	john@example.com
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(312) 312
Date	09-15-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aenean mollis ultricies interdum. Nullam pharetra vitae lectus eget volutpat. Integer in sodales ligula. Vestibulum pellentesque arcu in est aliquam rhoncus. Curabitur et dui quis arcu scelerisque congue. Pellentesque libero ligula, sagittis a tempus quis, finibus eget erat. Nunc sed tempor nunc. Mauris tempor odio id lorem commodo dapibus. Nulla viverra mi in magna imperdiet volutpat.

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies

Amy Starecheski <aas39@columbia.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:51 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

To whom it may concern -

I am writing to register my dismay with the possibility that the Ethnic Studies major may be discontinued at Manoa. I have had the privilege of visiting with the faculty and students in Ethnic Studies at Manoa, and teaching one of your alums in my MA program at Columbia. As an oral historian, I want to make sure you know how extraordinary the work of this center and their students is. They are making essential contributions, in particular, to knowledge about how to work at the intersections of indigenous and academic oral history practices.

This is globally-relevant work you should be investing in, not cutting.

Sincerely,
Amy Starecheski

Amy Starecheski, PhD (she/her)
Director
Columbia Oral History MA Program
www.oralhistory.columbia.edu
212-851-4395
Office: @ home!

--NYC Covid-19 Oral History, Narrative and Memory Archive, Co-Director

--Mott Haven Oral History Project, Founder

--*Ours to Lose: When Squatters Became Homeowners in New York City*, University of Chicago Press. (And in [podcast form](#), via 99% Invisible)



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

Mari Stasky <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:35 PM

Reply-To: mstasky@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 Mari Stasky
 Email mstasky@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 7727602
 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 disheartened that the arts are the first thing to be cut at UH. We have strong and popular programs that are rich in Hawaiian Culture. These programs are essential - I encourage UH to think outside the box and know that students and the community are watching.

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:

Mari Stasky

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>

I beseech you...

Robert H Stiver <bobfromoahu@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:01 AM

...to withdraw any and all consideration of emasculating the mission and functions of the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Manoa.

I have had extensive peripheral and direct interaction with the ES Department for more than 10 years. Both its campus presence and community outreaches (e.g., I appeared at least once on Chair Ibrahim Aoude's 'Olelo TV "Island Voices" productions) have been for decades a solid and essential element in our "ethnic-infused" aina.

Although I don't have full facts at hand, I'm most disturbed by one proposal: "stopping out" the Ethnic Studies BA degree. Given our ethnic diversity (is there any more "ethnically diverse" locale in the US?!), that BA degree is a magnet to young, idealistic future leaders in the inclusive America (race, gender, culture, religion, arts) I hold dear. Any bruted "cost savings" can only be considered not cost effective across a whole range of levels and objective analyses!

I of course accept that these are difficult days that seem destined to extend out to any foreseeable future. I'd hate to have your position and responsibilities. But cutting Ethnic Studies must not be an option!

Thank you and aloha,

**Robert H. Stiver
Pearl City**



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

Kimberlee Stone <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:11 PM

Reply-To: k_n_stone@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, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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

Name	Kimberlee Stone
Email	k_n_stone@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(310) 4880787
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:

While the administration seems to be in "favor" of what the arts and humanities focuses can do for university life, in the abstract sense, you seem unwilling and unable to provide any resources to keep the departments afloat. In fact, you seem more than willing and able to support the idea of de-centralizing these focuses in order for them fit into the neat little boxes for GEN-ED requirements, but

don't seem to be able to find the same support for them to retain their value on their own merit. Do you understand how concerning this disconnect in logic is? The arts and humanities help students connect with culture, offering them a window into different cultures, and encourage them to broaden their perspectives through language, creative arts and media, and performance mediums. They offer students outlets and provide communities for those who don't feel at home in "traditional" majors. By centralizing and "streamlining" arts and humanities you are effectively stripping those communities away from those people as well as aiding in perpetuating a colonized view of what the world should look like. The arts and humanities prove that life doesn't have to centre itself around capital to matter. That life should be about the exploration of society, culture, and though beyond textbooks and rote memorization. We understand that cuts have to be made campus wide, we understand that we are not the only departments at risk. But do you understand what a detriment this university would be at without the departments in the arts and humanities -- like Hawaiian Studies, Asian and SE Asian Studies, Art and Design focuses, and even Performance (Acting and Dance). UH Mānoa has the opportunity to set itself a part from Universities on the continent with these focuses, but stopping out and decentralizing these focuses completely undermines what brings a lot of people here in the first place -- which, again say it with me, a connection to culture (their own or new understandings of cultures they have never known about or want to dive deeper into). We are not a cost-cutting measure. We are not an opportunity to be seen as worthy only under the GEN-ED umbrella. We are a community, and we are not easily and will not be easily stopped out or silenced.

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:

Kimberlee Stone

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [2615 S. King St.](#), 703

State / Province: Honolulu

Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony for the Philippine Languages and Literatures and IPLL language programs

Alessandra Talabong <talabong@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:50 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear UH Board of Regents,

I write to you in order to tell you of how the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has impacted my learning here in Hawai'i and why the University should *not* eliminate the program. Although I actually do not major in Filipino, studying my culture and my language through taking courses from the program has been an important part of my education here at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Taking these courses helped me reach back to the culture that I was once fully immersed in; the department, and what it stands for, is a reminiscent part of me and my culture. These courses did not just help me academically, but also helped me with being responsible, respectful, and aware of my own history as well as others. I plead to you all to stop this proposal to "stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture" as well as the reorganization of the Dept. of the IPLL. Doing so will be detrimental to the University and its students. The whole entire department has been a community to all the Filipinos and others who are interested in our culture and language. It is unfair and unethical to cut out a whole entire department that represents a huge part of the University as well as the island of Hawai'i. I remind you that cutting these programs is a form of institutional racism and is therefore unacceptable to the University's ethos. If the University really believes in delivering a "multicultural experience" that adheres to the "principles of sustainability and essence of aloha" as the University's website states, then these recent cuttings of programs should be dismissed and put to an end. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alessandra Talabong

--

Alessandra Talabong
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Class of 2021
English & Political Science Major
talabong@hawaii.edu



Ethnic Studies for me

COURTNEY Tindall <courtneychan@comcast.net>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:44 PM

Board of Regents,

It has come to my attention that there was a possibility of the College of Ethnic Studies being "opted out." I would like to say, that this would be absolutely heart breaking! As a person of color, our people fought and fought to have programs like these. My parents were classmates of many who fought for having Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. Some even ended up in jail for fighting for what they believe in. I proudly attended many of the Asian American Studies programs prior to being transferred to University of Hawaii and I know how important it is to learn our history and struggles in the United States. In fact, I learned so much about my family and what they went through in these classes. My great grandmother was born in Hawaii and moved to San Francisco after marrying her husband. They came over with nearly nothing, but through hard work and perseverance they started the very first Chinese American bakery in SF Chinatown. My great grandpa eventually started the Hawaii- San Francisco Investment Corporation.

Since much of my history is based in Hawaii- my grandma from my dad's side was born there and my great grandma from my mom's side was born there, I could not pass on the opportunity to move to Hawaii to finish my last two years of college in the Ethnic Studies program. Not only did I thrive as a student (my professors truly saw the best in me- I was put in the dean's list for two semesters with one receiving a full tuition waiver), I learned so much about the history of Hawaii's peoples, especially the experience of the Chinese in Hawaii through Professor Gregory Mark. To my surprise, after doing much needed research on Ancestry.com I was able to take some of what I learned during those years and put the pieces of the puzzle to discover new relatives I had not know about. The biggest surprise of all came a few years ago when I read through old handouts given to me in the class and one of the famous merchants Dr. Mark taught us about turned out to be my great grand uncle, Yap Yee.

So how has Ethnic Studies impacted my life? Well, for one, I always got teased when I graduated from college and was told I'd never do anything with my major. Well everyone was quite wrong. I eventually got my teaching credential and taught in a school in SF's Chinatown. After seven years, I moved onto my current school, Marin Horizon School and this is where I have taken my knowledge from my major and have applied it to my teaching. Fortunately, my school is very proactive about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have discovered that teachers like myself have a more personal approach to teaching about these sensitive topics, due to experiencing racism, bias, and having family members who have experienced Chinese Exclusion Act, the civil rights movement, etc.

The College of Ethnic Studies has shaped the person I am today. I am hoping that it will survive as a major as this is one way college students can learn about their family history how important it is to Hawaii and the rest of the United States.

Best Regards,
Courtney Chan Tindall, UH Manoa, B.A. Ethnic Studies 2001



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

Tahirih Toche <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:33 AM

Reply-To: tahirih.toche@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 Tahirih Toche
Email tahirih.toche@gmail.com
Phone Number (240) 7063737
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
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Please add your additional comments:

The arts are historically proven to preserve the culture of a people group or region for generations and years; it is so imperative that these programs be offered in our universities as a way to fulfill our human duties to educate others in creative disciplines and in our quest to understand our human nature or the world around us through art.

As a professional performer, I was greatly blessed by my institution to be instructed academically within the arts. Though I once had interest in venturing into further studies at University of Hawaii, this may never occur if these programs are cancelled.

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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Signature



Name:

Tahirih Toche

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [12534 Inglewood Ave. Apt. 188 Hawthorne](#)
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.

Laura Tomasello <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Reply-To: ltomasello16@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 Laura Tomasello

Email ltomasello16@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2557159

Date 09-15-2020

Letter Heading To:
UHM President David President LassnerCC:
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:

It would be a travesty for UH to cut its theater and dance program at a time in which we are seeing the blossoming of Native Hawaiian theater with productions like Laieikawai and 'Au'a 'ia. Where else will we be able to train the next generation of Native Hawaiian playwrights and actors?

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:

Laura Tomasello

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: 41-651 Inoaole 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.

Rosie Trump <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:24 AM

Reply-To: rtrump@unr.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	Rosie Trump
Email	rtrump@unr.edu
Phone Number	(724) 309-4928
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
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Please add your additional comments:

I am an Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Nevada, Reno. I urge you NOT to cut the UH dance programs. The Masters program is renowned nationally and I have been aware of its reputation throughout my 15 year professional career. I have encountered graduates of your dance programs in the professional realm and have held your dance programs in high esteem.

Eliminating the UH dance degree options destroys a cultural pipeline to the world.

As a professor at a WUE school, my dance program could potential benefit from gaining students who would otherwise choose your university, and yet I still strongly oppose the action of cutting your dance program. The performing arts are an investment with value beyond economic trends. Embodied knowledge is not a vanity or a hobby or a frivolous pursuit. It is a rigorous, academic discipline. It is short-sighted and reprehensible that these cuts are even being considered.

As a professor at a state university, I understand first hand how our academic offerings impact and enrich out communities, regions, and nation. Your in-state students need dance as an academic option at UH. A strong dance and performing arts profile is a hallmark of a premier state university and conversely, the absence of dance degree options at UH will reflect poorly.

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:

Rosie Trump

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Reno

State / Province: NV

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.

Noe Tupou <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:21 PM

Reply-To: aucklandavon@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 Noe Tupou
 Email aucklandavon@yahoo.com
 Phone Number (808) 5547196
 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
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Please add your additional comments:

The arts is not an area that should be cut right now as it will be what keeps our creativity alive and is much needed in the time of covid-19 we need hope and creativity.
 Mahalo!

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:

Noe Tupou

I am a UH Manoa:

Faculty Member

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



Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee Testimony to the BOR

UHM Faculty Senate <uhmfs@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:57 PM

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

Cc: Paul McKimmy <mckimmy@hawaii.edu>, SEC <uhm-mfs-sec@lists.hawaii.edu>

Aloha,

Attached is the Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee's testimony dated September 15, 2020 to accompany the BOR agenda item *IV. Report of the President and COVID-19 Update*.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 561-1044 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Paul McKimmy, Ed.D., Chair
2020-21 Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

John Kinder for Paul McKimmy, Ed.D.

Administrative Officer

Mānoa Faculty Senate Office | [2500 Campus Road](#) | Hawai'i Hall 208 | Honolulu, HI 96822 | Ph: (808) 956-7725 | uhmfs@hawaii.edu | Senate Website: www.hawaii.edu/uhmfs



SEC Testimony to the BOR Sept 17.pdf

136K



September 15, 2020

TO: Benjamin Kudo, Chair
UH Board of Regents

CC: Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawaii at Mānoa

FROM: Paul McKimmy, Chair *Paul B. McKimmy*
2020-21 Senate Executive Committee

RE: 2020-21 Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee Testimony

Aloha, Chair Kudo and regents;

I'm here today as Chair of the MFS Executive Committee to share a faculty perspective on what is happening at UHM with respect to budget discussions. The primary point I need to convey is that we are dismayed at the absence of a clear process for deliberating on structural change decisions in response to your resolution 20-03 declaring an emergency.

Your own resolution directs administration to “work with faculty, students, and staff to seek the broadest possible consensus for the greater good in order to maintain the integrity and continued functioning of the University.”

Any process for review and revision of programs and unit structures, by this resolution and by CBA, requires review by the affected faculty. R-20 statement on “Roles and Consultation Protocols Involving UH Administration, UHPA, and UH Faculty Senates” requires that all reorganizations impacting faculty be referred to UHPA and indicates Faculty Senates should be jointly consulted on major reorganizations.

What we have experienced thus far is:

- Deliberations between a small group of administrators resulting in specific recommendations for every unit at Mānoa.
- Private discussions between the president, provost and Mānoa deans.



- Widely varied responses by Mānoa deans - some framing administrative recommendations as mandates and others citing them as deliberation openers. These responses vary widely, and can not be taken as representative of faculty consultation. Some deans did not consult with faculty prior to responding.

I applaud Provost Bruno for responding to the obvious faculty angst and frustration by publicly posting the data sources referenced, recommendations made to deans, and dean responses; however, this is NOT a consultation process that involved faculty. Faculty should have received the data and recommendations at the same time as the deans.

What we need is a publicly shared process that includes deliberate consultation with faculty at each step. Such a process should have preceded release of any recommendations, provided a timeline, general criteria applied to unit recommendations, the recommendations themselves, cost reduction targets, and priorities appropriate to Mānoa's R1 mission and status. The process should allow time for Deans to work with their faculty on responses, alternatives and additional proposals. It should specify the points at which MFS and other consultative groups would be consulted.

Without such a process, the administration is not proceeding in accordance with shared governance principles, your own resolution, or the CBA. I hope you will make clear that such a process is required.



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

Lindsey Wabs <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:15 PM

Reply-To: lmwabs23@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	Lindsey Wabs
Email	lmwabs23@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 3489510
Date	12-23-1992
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:	Here's to our dear Hawai'i, here's to our green and white. Here's to our alma mater, here's to our team with fight.
--------------------------------------	--

As a former University of Hawai'i cheerleader I know what is like to be part of a small but very unique and very talented group of young people. My experience as a University of Hawai'i cheerleader meant the world to me.

It gave me hope, confidence, pride in my community, my school and in myself. I know for a fact that members of other small groups such as the Rainbow Dancers, theatre groups and other performing art groups and teams within UH feel the same way. Cutting these programs will have devastating effects on the people who need them the most. Now more than ever, people need to be able to follow their passion and spread and create joy in as many ways as possible. These programs are part of what makes the University Hawai'i special to so many and beg you to reconsider. Please keep the dreams of those still wishing to attend this school because of these programs alive. Mahalo for your time, Go Bows.

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."

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:

Lindsey Wabs

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: Waipahu

State / Province: Hawai'i

Country: United States

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



Testimony on David Lassner's Proposed Cuts to Theatre and Dance

Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:11 PM

Dear Board of Regents and UH Administration:

I am writing to express my opposition to UH President David Lassner's proposed cuts to degree programs in Dance (BA, BFA, MA, MFA) and Theatre (MA, MFA, and reduction of MFA tracks).

As the chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, I have not received any fiscal data from the UH administration that would explain how the proposed cuts would lead to significant savings. Of the four faculty members in Dance, only one is gradually approaching retirement age, but the other four still have decades of teaching ahead of them. Since "retrenchment" is not on the table, it is unclear to me where the supposed savings would be coming from.

On the Theatre side, we would be willing to give up the MA program, but our PhD program (with currently 14 students in it) is doing well and has an excellent national and international reputation. It is one of very few PhD programs in North America with a track in Asian theatre, and many landmark publications in Asian theatre studies have come out of our program over the last forty years. (Palgrave Macmillan only a few months ago published the dissertation of Wei Zhang, one of our recent graduates, and now a Professor at Hangzhou Normal University: *Chinese Adaptations of Brecht: Appropriation and Intertextuality*.) Our PhD program is also innovative and interdisciplinary: Alex Munro, currently a PhD student in the Performance Studies track, not only heads the Translational Health Science Simulation Center at the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene but was also instrumental in training 300 contact tracers online this past summer. He is currently in the process of finishing his dissertation on the performative aspects of simulation in healthcare education. We are also currently in the process of developing a new PhD track in Hawaiian and Indigenous Performance. In addition to the already existing MFA Hawaiian-medium Theatre (*hana keaka*) program in our department, the new PhD track would confirm the status of our department as a place of Hawaiian learning. One of the critiques of our PhD program is the length of time it takes our doctorate students to finish their degrees. There are several reasons for this: our Asian theatre students usually have to learn an Asian language, and they also usually spend time in the respective country doing field research. The most important reason, however, is the fact we can only financially support our PhD students for the first three years, after which they have to find a job to be able to finance their studies.

One particular galling aspect of Lassner's proposed cuts is the fact that they run counter to his own self-proclaimed vision for a "post-pandemic University of Hawai'i": Our degree programs contribute to education (our MA in Dance Education), health (our collaboration with the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene), and the local economy (most dance studios in the state are run as small businesses by former students of us) - and our Hawaiian-medium Theatre program also makes our department a place of Hawaiian learning.

Please "stop out" David Lassner's proposed cuts not only to the Department of Theatre and Dance but to the many other "small degree programs" across the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Aloha,

Markus Wessendorf

--

Markus Wessendorf, PhD
(he • him • his)
Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance
Editor, *Das Brecht-Jahrbuch/The Brecht Yearbook*
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
[1770 East-West Road](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96822](#)
Phone: (808) 956-2600
Email: wessendo@hawaii.edu
Office: Sakamaki Hall A404



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony against proposed cuts

Emily West <west2@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 7:39 PM

Dear Board of Regents,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed cuts to Ethnic Studies, Theater and Dance, Art History, the BAs in Philippine Language and Culture and German, and other programs in CALL and CSS. The targeting of humanities programs in these cuts is obvious and deeply concerning, but in my testimony I want to focus particularly on the way that this administrative action has been carried out. At the last Board of Regents meeting you received hundreds of pages testifying against the emergency resolution that granted the Board unprecedented powers to make unilateral decisions, yet you approved the resolution anyway. This is only the latest example of administrative decisions made without respect for principles of shared governance. Having been a faculty member at UH Mānoa for just over a year, I have already seen the CALL merger pushed through despite massive faculty opposition. Now at a moment of crisis in which every employee at Mānoa is working double and triple time to keep the university running so that we can serve our students and community, decisions are again being handed down without collaboration, consultation, or even conversation; instead, they are presented as "provocations" and can thus only be confronted as attacks on programs, faculty, and students. The university community -- staff, faculty, and students -- has shown time and time again in the past six months that we will go above and beyond for UH Mānoa every day. Instead of working with us to collaboratively make the difficult decisions we know are necessary to allow our university to thrive in the future, we are treated as inconveniences and afterthoughts. A university is its students and faculty, and together we serve the public good. Please work with us rather than against us.

Respectfully,
Emily West

--

Dr. Emily M. West
Assistant Professor
Department of English
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Stop attacks on Ethnic Studies at UHM

John Witeck <jwiteck@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 4:02 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>, ESChair@hawaii.edu

The budget team at UHM recently recommended that the Ethnic Studies Dept be scaled back and/or forced to partner with other programs or Interdisciplinary Studies.

This recommendation was recently withdrawn. Still it is puzzling how this recommendation came about. The process was not transparent nor would it produce any significant cost savings or benefits.

Ethnic Studies was a response nearly 50 yrs ago to the lack of inclusive history and instruction at the UH. It would be damaging to students and our multi-ethnic and diverse community, and indeed to the University's own image and reputation, to scale back this vital and unique program which teaches students their heritage and history and prepares them for the challenges of opposing the social and systemic inequities that persist.

In this time when we have all been urging that Black Lives Matter, it would send the wrong message to say that the lives, histories and cultures of our multiethnic and working class community do not matter.

We urge the Regents and UH administrators to halt these periodic attempts to undermine vital instructional and research programs such as Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies, both of which have been placed on the chopping board several times in the past! People have a right to safeguard and teach their own history and culture in their own way!

Sincerely, John and Lucy Witeck, UH alumnae

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Do not cut or stop-out the BA program in Philippine Language and Culture

John Witeck <jwiteck@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:49 PM

To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Cc: nadezna@hawaii.edu, deand@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner and U.H. Regents,

It will be a horrendous transgression and error to stop-out the Philippine Language and Culture B.A. program as has been recommended for alleged but unlikely cost-savings.

Given the large number of Filipinos in the islands and Hawaii's close ties and links with the Philippines, this makes no sense at all and can be viewed as racist and discriminatory.

Filipino workers have contributed much to our society and economy for over a century. Why deny them and their children and grandchildren the opportunity to study their culture and a Philippine language and obtain a B.A.?!

Please resist this recommendation and retain the B.A. program in Philippine Language and Culture at UHM.

Sincerely, John Witeck, UH alumnus

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



Testimony for BOR meeting-Retain Department of Ethnic Studies

ann Wright <annw1946@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:32 AM

September 15, 2020

Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i
Manoa, Oahu, Hawai'i

Via email: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I am a retired U.S. Army Colonel and a retired U.S. diplomat. I am a resident of Hawai'i and live just down the road from the University of Hawai'i on Kapiolani Blvd. I am on the board of Hawai'i Peace and Justice and am one of the coordinators of Chapter 113-Hawai'i of Veterans for Peace. With my U.S. government work in international relations in Asia and the Pacific with assignments in Mongolia and the Federated States of Micronesia and my work after retirement in Japan, South Korea, North Korea and Viet Nam, I have been asked to speak many times at various classes at UH-Manoa and the East-West Center.

I know you are facing an incredibly difficult situation with the declining revenues for the University due to the effects of COVID 19. You will be making hard decisions on how to responsibly balance the budget of the University.

I would like for your consideration of keeping the Department of Ethnic Studies in the university curriculum. Considering the role of the University of Hawai'i in the Pacific region with its many ethnicities represented in the student body of the University, I believe it is critical that Ethnic Studies continue as a key part of the University of Hawai'i for our UH students to learn more about the diversity of the region.

The Department of Ethnic Studies is fifty years old and grew out of the national civil rights, anti-war and student movements and the Hawai'i anti-eviction, land, labor, and sovereignty movements. With the additions in Black Studies, digital futures, sustainability and environmental justice classes and research foci and the relaunch of the Center for Oral History under Ethnic Studies, the Department of Ethnic Studies is extremely relevant to our State and our region. The combined Ethnic Studies and College of Education Bachelors and Masters Degrees ensures that teachers throughout Oceania and the Pacific will have a solid background in the cultures of the region.

With the challenges of racism here in Hawai'i and nationally, this is the time for increasing ethnic studies instead of reducing them.

Even the option for a "stop-out" at this point can result in a decrease in students declaring Ethnic Studies as a major thereby weakening the Department of Ethnic Studies and provide no short-term cost savings for the university.

I strongly support retaining the Department of Ethnic Studies as you evaluate the budget of the University.

Thank you for the opportunity of a community member to offer my views.

I have signed up to give oral testimony on September 17.

Sincerely,

Ann Wright, US Army Colonel (Retired)

[2333 Kapiolani Blvd #3217](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96826](#)

Tel: 808-741-1141

Email: annw1946@gmail.com

--

Ann Wright
Dissent: Voices of Conscience
www.voicesofconscience.com

Support the BA in Ethnic Studies

Erin Kahunawai Wright <ewright@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:40 PM

Aloha mai,

My name is Kahunawai Wright and I'm a faculty member in Educational Administration in the College of Education. I would like to submit my testimony in support of keeping the BA in Ethnic Studies and against the MBT recommendation for Ethnic Studies to "partner" with Interdisciplinary Studies.

Although I am an alum of this department and firmly believe in their critical importance to the university and Hawai'i (especially at this time), I'd like to speak from my perspective as a faculty member.

Recently, my department partnered with Ethnic Studies to create a Bachelors to Masters Program (BAM or 4+1). We have welcomed our inaugural cohort of four students just this Fall and we already have twice as many interested for next year.

This program partnership demonstrates the ways in which Ethnic Studies continues to find innovative, transdisciplinary student-centered ways to engage in the work of social justice and human rights with attention to advanced education and career. Through our BAM program, students are offered a direct pathway between their undergraduate and graduate degrees *at Mānoa* - this is especially important for those of our students who want to continue their education in Hawai'i and continue to build their foundation in Hawai'i. Like Ethnic Studies, my department endeavors to support "growing our own" - we know the best thinkers and doers for Hawai'i have a deep commitment to Hawai'i. Moreover, this program also offers students a way to pursue an advance degree in education *outside* of teaching, a crucial aspect of transforming and creating anti-oppressive, transformative educational environments writ large. We need these kinds of students now more than ever.

For 50 years, Ethnic Studies has an established track record of graduating transformative thinkers and doers, publishing outstanding scholarship, and serving as a model for community engagement, even with being historically under-resourced. For example, their faculty have often been split between departments and their department is limited to an undergraduate program. Yet, they continue to create unique opportunities for their students, develop a variety of partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally, and still *show up* to support our Hawai'i communities. Perhaps our UH system should integrate these kinds of indicators - community engagement, student-centered, partnerships - when assessing a department (and degree's) importance and relevance to the university.

Ke aloha 'āina,

--

Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright
Associate Professor of Educational Administration
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
[1776 University Avenue](https://www.hawaii.edu/1776), Wist Hall 222
(808) 956-4116
Educational Administration: <https://coe.hawaii.edu/academics/educational-administration>

Available now through Kamehameha Schools Publishing!

Hūlili (Vol. 11, No.1): No Ka Pono o Ka Lāhui (Guest Edited by Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua & Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright): <http://kpstore.deliveryhawaii.com/KS/product/978-0-87336-365-5.html>



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Degree programs at the Department of Theatre and Dance, UHM

kurt wurmli <wurmlikurt@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 8:59 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "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>, "iezzi@hawaii.edu" <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, "efisher@hawaii.edu" <efisher@hawaii.edu>, "wessendo@hawaii.edu" <wessendo@hawaii.edu>, Kurt Wurmli <kurwue@sfgbasel.ch>

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

My name is Kurt Wurmli. I received my MFA degree in theatre/design in 1998 and my PhD degree in theatre/Asia in 2008, both from UHM. I am now a faculty at the renowned Basel School of Design in Switzerland.

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the planned changes to the programs at the University of Hawai'i.

I am shocked, disappointed, deeply concerned and I do strongly disagree with the proposed changes, which mean irrevocable damages!

I came to UHM in 1994 from Switzerland to study theatre and Asian Theatre, because the Department of Theatre and Dance at UHM was and still is considered, worldwide the leading scholarly and educational institution for Asian Theatre. To my knowledge it is the only program where students, including undergraduates and graduates, can learn and experience Asian Theatre through practical involvement on stage and academic research in class at the same time. Because of the Graduate Program in Asian Theatre, UHM is famous and admired throughout Europe.

I do understand the financial situation Hawai'i is facing, but the proposed changes would not only be devastating for the Department of Theatre and Dance but would also harm the reputation of the state of Hawai'i.

I urge you to reconsider the deadly cuts to the Department of Theatre and Dance at UHM.

Sincerely,

Kurt Würmli, Ph.D.

Lehrer VorKurse Gestaltung und Kunst,
Weiterbildung Gestaltung und Kunst
Schule für Gestaltung
[Vogelsangstrasse 15](#)
4058 Basel

Tel. 061 681 67 52
kurwue@sfgbasel.ch
www.sfgbasel.ch



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

Wai Shan Yanagi <noreply@jotform.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:05 AM

Reply-To: waishan3@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 Wai Shan Yanagi
 Email waishan3@hotmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 3717541
 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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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 daughter is currently taking dance classes in different genre's and at different studios across the island. Although she is not in college yet, I can see how much she enjoys dance and all the ways these classes have helped her. Should she decide to pursue dance later in life, I would like her to have options. This would definitely help sway her decision to attend her state university

versus going away. I hope you can reconsider your budget cuts and realize how much it can impact our next generations.

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:

Wai Shan Yanagi

I am a UH Manoa:

Alumni

Address

City: [1229 Molehu Dr](#)
State / Province: HI
Country: United States

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Ethnic Studies

Sandy Yee <syee1700@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:31 AM

Dear Board of Regents,

Ethnic Studies is a vitally important program at the University of Hawai'i especially because of Hawai'i's rich cultural history. It took 50 years to build the Ethnic Studies program into a first class degree program. It is important to retain the ES BA degree and I urge you to **Oppose the Proposed Option to Stop-out the Ethnic Studies Bachelor of Arts.**

Sincerely,
S. Yee, UHM Alumnus



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Chachie Abara

Chachie Abara <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:08 AM

Reply-To: mabara@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Chachie Abara
Email	mabara@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 485-9096
Date	09-15-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

The Philippine Studies Department (Filipino & Ilokano Language & Culture Program) has been a defining moment in my undergraduate career. It not only has brought me so much deeper understanding and closer connection within my cultural roots and foundation but it gave me a lot of clarity with everything that is going on with the world. Through the Ilokano Department, I was able to stay rooted with knowing my language even better and even stronger to be able to come up with additional resources for the program that can help within future generations who has that inner curiosity to stay connected with their mother tongue. With that said, the program itself is so beneficial and in how I see it deserve better funding due to popular demands for different

students. UH Manoa houses almost majority Filipino students and majority of them either were born here, move here, or immigrated and settled here, coming from personal experience I believe that through the IP programs that were offered here it was one who introduce me to learning the language in gratitude to the instructors who taught the program.

Signature



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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

BOR Testimony 9/17

Donavan Albano <albanodc@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:29 AM

Aloha mai kāua,

Please find my written testimony to the Board of Regents attached.

Me ke aloha,
Donavan Kamakani Albano
Pronouns: he, him, his
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
B.A. Candidate, Ethnic Studies
M.Ed. Candidate, Educational Administration

 **BOR Meeting Testimony 9_17.pdf**
49K

Aloha e Board of Regent Members, President Lassner and Provost Bruno,

My name is Donavan Kamakani Albano, and I am a Kanaka Maoli haumāna majoring in Ethnic Studies and pursuing an M.Ed. in Educational Administration through the Combined Bachelor's and Master's (BAM) Program. I am writing in my capacity as a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to demand firmly that the Department of Ethnic Studies remain independently as its own department. I also write to stand in protection of and solidarity with the Women's Studies, Theatre and Dance, Philippine Languages and Literatures, and other departments that may face similar and even harsher risks, especially in possible loss of autonomy. I urge that as further recommendations and budget processes are being made that student governance groups will be part of these conversations, and evidence regarding supposed projected savings will be provided transparently.

The genealogy of the amazingly radical Ethnic Studies department lies in grassroots activism during the civil rights, anti-war, anti-eviction, Hawaiian sovereignty movements. It is a higher education embodiment of the ongoing commitment towards combatting institutional and systemic racism and misogyny, colonialism, and heteropatriarchal settler-sanctioned violence that remain ever-present in society. The demand for this very department emerged out of the fact that many people, especially BIPOC, believed that they were deprived of learning the true histories of their peoples. As a Kanaka Maoli, I can attest to this deeply, and I can genuinely say that if it were not for the Department of Ethnic Studies, I would not be where I am today. We cultivate and produce new knowledge around social justice that centers on the values, cultures, and ecologies of Hawai'i and Oceania. While the "option to stop-out" recommendation may have been removed, I cannot sit idly by the fact that the potential future of this EAdeducating department would be under administered under another department.

As the University of Hawai'i continues to live out the legacy of settler colonialism, institutional racism, and more, targeting our departments under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of perpetuating these very oppressive systems. While many students may understand that current majors of these departments will not be prevented from graduating with their degrees, the possibility of stopping new admissions and inhibiting us from studying what we may come to find we are passionate about is problematic. I am also concerned with the lack of consultation between various involved, including the Interdisciplinary Studies department.

Our departments, especially those that are within the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, are populated by BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and students with disabilities. They are truly place-based and Indigenous-serving in their respective natures. To deprive future students of the opportunity to pursue this knowledge would be to inhibit the development of future leaders in the Kingdom of Hawai'i, Oceania, and across the world. This global pandemic has made evident the importance

of working collectively and collaboratively, and requires this 'ike to understand where we have been and where we could progress towards. Like my fellow students, we look forward to the incorporation of our mana'o and further discussions. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kū Kia'i Mauna,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donovan Kamakani Albano', written in a cursive style.

Donavan Kamakani Albano



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Save Ethnic Studies Dept.

Jim Albertini <jimalbertini@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:56 AM

Aloha BOR,

The Ethnic Studies Dept at UH has a long important history not only for the University but for the broader community. It is a vital dept. and must be saved and fully funded.

Mahalo.

Jim Albertini

--

Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 [Ola'a \(Kurtistown\) Hawaii'i 96760](#) Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org Visit us on the web at www.malu-aina.org



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Anna Micah Ang

Anna Micah Ang <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Reply-To: amang@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Anna Micah Ang
Email	amang@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Alumni
Phone Number	(808) 7994487
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program was a home for me at UH Manoa while I was working through my undergraduate degree. Being a recent immigrant from the Philippines, being plugged to the program has helped me make wonderful connections. Truly, the program has adopted students as family of their own. The rapport we have built was extraordinary that students are naturally drawn to be part of the family, even non Filipinos. I sincerely learned more about my Filipino culture and heritage ever so intently and passionately with the enthusiasm and competence of our faculty and staff. They gave as an avenue to express ourselves in the language of our own roots through social events. In class, they have taught us to think beyond our personal gains and

more about pur community in the motherland and our diaspora here in thr US. The program has pushed students like me to stand up for my people and keep pursuing my dreams so I can help others in the community. I believe the program is essential to many students at UH Manoa because it is a lifeline to many Filipinos. Our education gives empowerment, critical thinking and civic engagement. Most importantly I met people who became friends and families that will remain for a lifetime. So please, consider saving oue program and do give importance to it!

Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

KEEP BA PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAM

Eunice Bala <balae@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:14 AM

September 16, 2020

Dear President Lassner,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of The Philippine Languages and Literatures degree programs in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL). 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."

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and the Department of IPLL is needed in the community because Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. Ilokano and Tagalog speakers have such a larger community need in Hawaii especially for professionals who are skilled in Philippine histories and cultures in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services. This program has helped me personally because growing up I did not learn how to speak the Tagalog language but now I can speak, write, and translate. I took my first Filipino course in my first semester of college in my freshman year and have continued to take a course every semester since then to get my BA. This program provided direct training in maintaining my literacy in my heritage language. Academically, the courses provided have challenged me to improve my writing and speaking skills. This program has also helped me fulfill my language requirements and other GE requirements. Professionally, I have been on the executive board for the Katipunan Club at UH Manoa, which has allowed me to gain leadership skills and to network with other organizations on neighboring islands as well as on the mainland. This program will help me in the future as a Physician practicing in Hawaii to communicate with new immigrants from the Philippines to get appropriate healthcare.

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 our BA in Philippine Language and Literature Program.

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

Respectfully,
Eunice Bala



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

PHLL Testimonial

Krizhna Bayudan <krizhnab@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:35 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Dean Domingo <deand@hawaii.edu>, Nadezna Ortega <nadezna@hawaii.edu>



Bayudan_PHELLtestimonial.pdf

46K

Kumustakayo University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

My name is Krizhna Bayudan and I am writing to you in regards to saving my beloved Philippine Languages and Literature Program (PHLL Program) from being cut from the budget. This program has challenged me to practice curiosity, gifted me with a home away from home, and facilitated a major turning point in my life. Being part of this program encouraged me to have a deeper connection to my heritage and for that, I am forever grateful and indebted to this program.

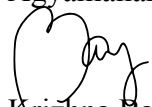
Even though I already know how to speak Ilokano from when I was young, I still have a long learning journey ahead of me. I have to boost competency in my reading and writing skills as I have never practiced that since attending the University. There is still so much history, language, and traditions to discover. For example, my curiosity explored uncharted family histories when completing assignments. One of our assignments was to write about the immigration of our parents to America from the Philippines. Now, the stories and laughter I shared with my parents when completing this assignment, is forever sketched in my memory. Inquiring about the language and experiences with my parents has strengthened my relationship with them. Yet, there are still much more stories to unearth.

One of the most impactful parts of this program is being with the people. Going into class feels like going into a “talk story” session with my big family. I always have great fun and learn more and more each day being with them. I have created lifelong friendships by learning about my classmates’ family backgrounds, their favorite Filipino foods, dreams, etc. These classes are always my comfort and different from any other courses I have taken. Unlike regular lectures, they enforce interactive learning. One day, we learned about the traditional “igad” or coconut grater. We practiced grating the coconut meat it in person, cooked traditional coconut sticky rice, and created palm leaf wrappers for it. I am thankful to share my cultural truths and engage in hands-on learning with my fellow classmates and teachers.

Being in this program has fostered the growth of my dreams of giving back to the community. I hope to graduate from the University with a B.S. in Biology AND a B.A. in Philippine Language and Literature: Ilokano and then move onto medical school. I hope to stay in Hawaii to serve the Ilokano community by being competent enough in the language to prevent any language barriers. By continuing my education in the Philippine Languages, I will be equipped to make my patients feel comfortable and heard.

The perpetuation of our language is the perpetuation of our culture. The Filipino culture is extremely prevalent in Hawaii. Hawaii is a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities, and that is what makes us so unique. The PHLL Program is the only program in the United States that allows students to graduate with a degree in the Philippine Languages. This is what sets the University apart from others. The removal of this impressive program will sever opportunities to preserve our culture and ultimately disregard the University’s reputation of diversity. I entrust your leadership will guide us to the continuation of valuable heritage and language learning.

Agyamanak unay,



Krizhna Bayudan



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Leandra Lina Bosas

Leandra Lina Bosas <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:53 AM

Reply-To: lbosas@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Leandra Lina Bosas
Email	lbosas@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 3937902
Date	01-14-2001
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

As a student currently taking an IP course under the Philippine Language and Literature, taking away this part of the UH Department eliminates the ethics and diversity within the state of Hawaii. Teaching residents and non residents at UH Manoa give students growth in becoming ethical and socially aware with the concerns about the problems we are facing today concerning with black lives matter and indigenous communities. These classes provide the material from the past and current. Topics that does not typically brought up day to day conversations.

With these current times, we need to be educated about ethics with understanding our differences to solve matter on racism and equality. Matters that might or will affect

9/16/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Leandra Lina Bosas

your students as we grab our diplomas and enter into the field.

Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies Testimony

Ambrie Bosworth <abosworth@sandiego.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:50 AM

Hello,

Below I have attached my testimony of the Ethnic Studies program. I am deeply saddened by this news. If there is anything else I can do please let me know. I am forever in debt to this program and extremely proud to be an Alumni of it.

Best,

Ambrie Bosworth
Graduate Candidate in Social Innovation
University of San Diego
abosworth@sandiego.edu
801-643-5295

 **ES Testimony .pdf**
72K

Ambrie Bosworth

Graduate Candidate in Social Innovation
University of San Diego
(801) 643-5295
abosworth@sandiego.edu

16th September 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I woke up this morning to news that deeply saddens me. As an Alumni of University of Hawai'i at Manoa who received their major in Ethnic Studies, I write this letter in sincere protest to "stop-out" this amazing program.

We are living in a difficult time, but these issues are not new. Ethnic Studies is an important program because it helps students learn about the *real* history of the United States, colonialism, civil rights issues and about the diverse cultures of the people of Hawai'i. Regardless of the important movements that this program has endured and supported, I am not here to tell you the impact this program has had on the world or it's community, I am here to tell you how it has impacted me.

I grew up in a white supremacist and extremely religious community. My education, community, and family never taught me about the struggles that marginalized people face every day or the history of violence in our country. They didn't teach me anything other than how great it was to be a white person in an all white town. When I moved to Hawai'i for my undergraduate education, I explored the majors I wanted to grow in, and that's where I found Ethnic Studies. Course after course, I grew evermore grateful for the knowledge I was obtaining, and I cried to know that my whiteness and lack of knowledge was perpetuating the suffering of people who did not look like me. This program is important because it helps people like me understand how to be an ally, and how to amplify marginalized voices.

I believe that this is a grave mistake, especially given the historic issues that have happened this summer with police brutality, massive protests, and COVID-19. We need to continue talking about them, and we need to continue this program for more than this reason. I ask that you consider my testimony. Additionally, I ask that you provide evidence as to how stopping the Ethnic Studies program will result in immediate projected savings. There is no amount of money that can compare to this priceless education. I ask that you stop targeting this program. You are causing future students to not have the opportunity to choose a study that they are passionate about. A "stop-out" will only weaken the Ethnic Studies department and it will not provide short-term cost savings. Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. I look forward to the MBT standing up against institutional racism and making the decision to support an essential program and education.

Warmly,

Ambrie Bosworth



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

testimony in support of Ethnic Studies

Leah Bremer <lbremer@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:08 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, eschair@hawaii.edu

Dear Board of Regents,

I am writing to acknowledge the 50 years of leadership and accomplishment of the Ethnic Studies Department at UH Mānoa. I have had the opportunity to work with several ES faculty during my time at the University and find their contributions, knowledge, experience, and insight essential to the critical social and environmental justice challenges of our generation. It is critical that ES continue as part of the University's commitment to social justice as a core principle.

I ask that you commit to transparent, accountable, and meaningful dialogue and involve Ethnic Studies asn other affected departments in discussions around their future so they can shape effective partnerships that uphold their mission and purpose. It does not seem that merging with Interdisciplinary Studies offers any cost-savings, so even more so, focusing on the goals of Ethnic Studies as articulated by the department is critical.

I would ask for the same of other departments affected by the proposed re-organization. Mahalo for your consideration.

Leah

--

Leah Bremer

UHERO Environmental Policy and Planning Group

Water Resources Research Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony for Sept 17 Meeting

Marguerite Butler <mbutler808@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:43 AM

Please accept my testimony for the Sept 17 meeting. I have signed up for oral testimony as well.


Marguerite Butler

--

Marguerite A. Butler
Professor

Department of Biology
2538 McCarthy Mall, Edmondson Hall 216
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<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/biology/people/marguerite-butler>
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~mbutler>

 **Marguerite Butler BOR testimony 9_15_2020.pdf**
147K

TO: The Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i
FROM: Dr. Marguerite Butler, Professor, School of Life Sciences, UH Manoa
DATE: 09/15/20
RE: Recommendations of the Manoa Budget Team; an on-the-ground perspective

What are your greatest concerns about this semester? My students responded:

Getting COVID and passing it to my grandparents or not graduating

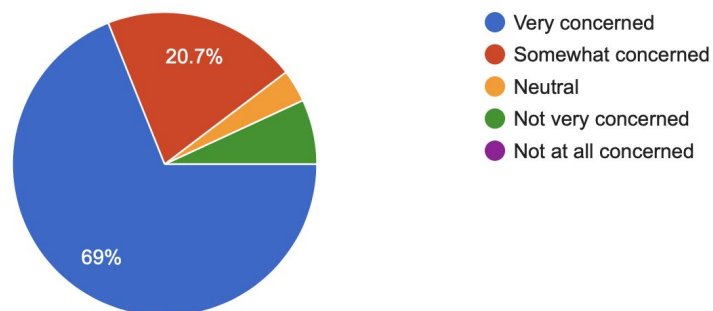
deprivation of laboratory experience

My biggest concern is learning online. I learn much better in person and in a classroom setting than online. However, with the rising cases of COVID and the uncertainty in all aspects of life right now, I am extremely scared to go to campus to take a class. Not everyone is following the safety guidelines to keep themselves and others safe and I believe it is safer for everyone to stay at home until this uncertainty is diminished and a vaccine is released. So, I understand the class should be online for the safety and wellbeing of ourselves, our classmates, professors and family members. I would have waited to take this class at a later time when everything is back to normal and class would be back in person, however I am on track to graduate this December so that is not an option for me.

What these responses reveal is profound concern for their families, sadness for lost learning opportunities (particularly the lab), and stress. In our Zoom sessions I see that two of my students have babies trying to get mom's attention, students dealing with: interruptions from family, hot apartments, poor internet access, lack of sleep, and stress.

How concerned are you about COVID-19?

29 responses



All summer, I worried about how we would deliver our intense course and lab during COVID-19. I have extremely high expectations because I believe in our students. They deserve the very best education we can provide, and they are brilliant. I want them to know, especially the

local ones, that it doesn't matter what neighborhood they live in, what they look like, or what their parents do for a living. I expect them to think physiologically, to creatively problem-solve, and communicate their findings as professionals. It is a hell of a lot of work to take undergrads

on this journey over a semester in a project-based physiology course and lab, but it is so exciting.

Many of my students go on to medical, veterinary, pharmacy, dental, nursing school, and the like, or careers in research. What I especially love are the students who didn't know they could do it before they gained self-confidence from doing HARD WORK. I love seeing the moment when they realize they *CAN* do it, and upgrade their life goals.

As the semester drew closer and community spread increased, my incredible TAs and I revised the delivery of our course from fully in-person, to socially distanced, to partially asynchronous, to modifying assignments altogether, to now teaching fully online day-by-day until the situation improves. Even so, here in week 4 two of my students who live in the dorms have fallen ill and are awaiting COVID-19 test results. I am very worried.

But it didn't have to be this way. I shared with the COVID19 TESTING team example plans by other universities for sentinel testing of their college campuses, coupled with reducing the number of students on campus. Other universities had plans in place to test with pooled strategies to test their entire campus each week, keeping their populations safe while allowing a much more normal campus experience. We could have had the same, because despite the recent "spike", Hawaii actually remains low in total case counts. We could have been a much more normal semester. **But UH still has no testing plan in place for students, faculty, or staff. Every day the conversation in the hallway is how is it going? Are the students learning? Are they OK?**

It is so upsetting to see University communications boasting about how many courses moved online for this semester, but failing to acknowledge how last-minute changes exacerbated stress on our faculty and staff, caused additional work, how we had to figure it out without additional resources, and all of the stress the students experience as they adjust to all of this. We are not OK. I especially worry about the fallout to the students.

It is hard to understand why COVID-19 communication was not better. I have heard that there were protocols developed for students sanitizing as they enter and exit classrooms, but these were not communicated to us. We had to work it out. Small funds from the CARES act to offset costs of additional resources came only well after the semester started, for example, my request for a room HEPA-air filter was denied (a primary recommendation for indoor safety), and I heard faculty in some colleges were never informed of the funds.

Prior to the start of the semester, I was informed that I was losing a TA for my course, due to budget cuts. I am already underwater with grading this semester. Despite high enrollment in life sciences, we live in constant fear of budget cuts. As a faculty member I am extremely concerned when TAs are asked to meet face-to-face for in-person labs (especially for lower division courses) driven largely by the fear of losing TA lines next semester in future budget cuts if we don't offer face-to-face labs during a pandemic. This is no way to make decisions. Why does administration do this to us?

Despite this educational chaos, my lab is very interested in helping Hawai'i get through the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been involved in COVID modeling and forecasting efforts through a volunteer pandemic modeling group, and my students and I have initiated a new research program: genomic surveillance and genotyping of SARS-CoV-2 in Hawaii. What can we uncover about viral introductions, R_e , and which strains we have in Hawaii with genetic detective work? We have set up a UH Foundation fund and managed to submit an NIH grant proposal with all of this going on. The maddening UH grant submission process and lack of support is another story.

While I don't expect a thank you for all our efforts, I really didn't expect to wake up to find on September 11, 2020, the Manoa Budget Teams thinks that the University would be better off without our efforts. See this breathtaking opening statement on the recommendations for the College of Natural Sciences, our home unit:

*Context: We are recommending several disruptive changes in the College that we believe will have great benefit to the university, **including the movement of three different academic programs to other colleges and IfA, and a radical change in the way that we administer the university's academic programs related to Life Sciences.***

Without any consultation, the MBT has recommended dismantling the College of Natural Sciences. How can this be of "great benefit to the university"? To whom? Not to our 2500 majors and thousands more non-majors served through service courses. CNS faculty are hired for both teaching and research expertise in their fields as the result of competitive national searches. Over my 13 years of teaching at UH, I have learned what makes our students tick, how to motivate them and encourage them to excel. I have trained dozens of undergraduates in mentored research, published with them, and taken them to national conferences. Our students deserve the best in STEM education.

Among these recommendations, the University of Hawaii proposes to

"Stop out graduate programs in Microbiology" - during a global pandemic.

How does this benefit the state? During a pandemic.

My amazing graduate students are microbiology students. I am a member of CNS. I cannot adequately express how discouraging this is. This is beyond lack of consultation.

It is difficult to understand how dismantling the College of Natural Sciences and distributing its resources to Organized Research Units, the Medical School, and possibly CTAHR, or having new instructors who were not recruited for these roles strengthens the University. One would

think that STEM education, along with the arts, humanities, and social sciences are the heart of a research university.

It is unfathomable. Please put a stop to this assault on the University. It is Hawaii's only Research I university and our students deserve the best.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Butler
Professor, School of Life Sciences



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Irene Joy Cabuloy

Irene Joy Cabuloy <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Reply-To: irenejoy@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Irene Joy Cabuloy
Email	irenejoy@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 3872781
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

My name is Irene Joy Cabuloy, a fifth year undergraduate student here at University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in biology and minoring in Ilokano language. I am writing this letter in opposition to cutting the BA program in Philippine Languages and Literatures and the IPLL language programs. I am aware that due to this global pandemic, the University is responding to an economic crisis. In the provost message sent to us on September 11, 2020, it stated that these painful measures are necessary for “more effective and cut costs.” However, cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its existence in the 1970's, this program has continued to thrive and grow.

In that same message sent to students, faculty and staff, it is also stated that your value is “measured by the quality and impact of our student learning, our scholarship and our service in the community” and that you “serve the state best when your graduates succeed” and when your “services advance the communities you are embedded to.” But let me ask you this: how will cutting our program benefit our students or the community? The BA in Ilokano language in specific, is the first and ONLY university in the world that offers this. Removing this program will be a huge blow in our efforts to serve our community academically, professionally and personally.

I can confidently and proudly say that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has done so much for me as a Filipino-American, a first generation college student and as a person. Two years ago, I took IP 364 Philippine Popular Culture and ILO 201 Intermediate Ilokano which are courses offered by this program. It was because of IP 364 that inspired me and motivated me to learn more about my culture whose history was barely covered in middle school and high school. It was because of ILO 201 that I decided to minor in Ilokano to develop my proficiency in the language. In more ways that I can think of, this program has changed my life for the better.

I aspire to become a physician with hopes to practice medicine in Hawaii and it is my goal to serve this community that raised me. It took me 21 years to learn the importance of language and realize how that would benefit my future patients. Recently, I learned that Filipinos are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (following Pacific Islanders) and that we are the biggest group in COVID deaths. This is due to many reasons including limited access to healthcare and overrepresentation in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry in which Filipinos are deemed “essential workers” and because of that, they must work during the pandemic. An added barrier to seeking healthcare is reflected in language barriers in which many have limited English proficiency and health care literacy. In addition, the system’s lack of translational services in Ilokano and Tagalog which are especially important in tele-health services. This is why this BA program is so important because it serves our community in more ways than one.

I cannot and refuse to imagine this university without this program. It would be a shame to know that the students after me will not get the same experience as I did and be offered these wonderful opportunities. So I am requesting to remove the BA program in Philippine Languages and Literatures and the IPLL language programs from the post-COVID initiative of budget cuts.

Best,
Irene

Signature



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



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

Riley Camacho <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:21 AM

Reply-To: rileycam@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 Riley Camacho
 Email rileycam@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (559) 4783126
 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:

I feel this way additionally about Ethnic Studies, seeing as though this is my major and absolutely VITAL to our community and overall society.

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:

Riley Camacho

I am a UH Manoa:

Student

Address

City: [3402 maluhia st](#)
State / Province: Honolulu
Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony, re: UH Manoa Department of Ethnic Studies

Anthony Castanha <castanha@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:23 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Ethnic Studies <esdept@hawaii.edu>, Ty Tengan <ttengan@hawaii.edu>

Dear Board of Regents:

Aloha. As a lecturer in the Department of Ethnic Studies for the past sixteen years, I am asking you to please respect the independence of Ethnic Studies for its many vital contributions over the decades to Hawai'i's students and diverse multi-ethnic community. The Department is unique in addressing critical issues at the forefront of racial divisions and hostilities we see taking place today. We teach our students about social and racial justice issues and respect among all ethnicities and peoples. We teach tolerance and understanding and understand how to solve these types of issues through education, advocacy and dialog.

In closing, anything less than continued autonomy would erode what the Department of Ethnic Studies has built its reputation on. And that is really about the respect that it deserves, especially in its fiftieth year. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony Castanha, Lecturer
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of Hawai'i at Manoa



Support Ethnic Studies

Wendy Cheng <WCheng@scrippscollege.edu>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>
Cc: "eschair@hawaii.edu" <eschair@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:14 AM

September 16, 2020

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents:

I am writing to register my steadfast support for the ethnic studies major at UH Manoa. It would be unconscionable if ethnic studies should be downsized at a historical moment in which it is most needed. Ethnic studies as a field is uniquely positioned to educate students about how we got here: about the historical ravages of structural racism, imperialism, and colonialism; about the dignity, resilience, and vibrant cultures of oppressed peoples; about how people from different backgrounds have always crossed racial and ethnic lines to share and build traditions of knowledge and praxis for true freedom and justice. We are in dire need of these knowledges and practices now and into the foreseeable future.

In a [recent article in *Ka Iao*](#), Vice President Kalbert Young states that "eliminating programs does not mean saving money"; rather, "we are... trying to weigh what is important for UH and for the state of Hawai'i." Preserving and supporting ethnic studies at this moment, then, conveys to the world that the histories and knowledges of marginalized peoples and their struggles for freedom and justice are important to UH and for the state of Hawai'i. Community-engaged learning and pedagogy, a cornerstone of the discipline, are important to UH and the state of Hawai'i. Respecting faculty who are known nationally in this field is important for UH and the state of Hawai'i. Maintaining a welcoming intellectual space on campus to educate future leaders from historically marginalized communities and their allies is important for UH and the state of Hawai'i.

UH has an opportunity now and in the years to come to be a leader in doing what is right. Invest in and support ethnic studies for a better future for all of us.

Wendy Cheng
Associate Professor and Chair of American Studies
Core Faculty, Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies
Scripps College

Editorial Board Member, Journal of Asian American Studies
Editorial Board Member, Amerasia Journal



Testimony to UH Board of Regents on Mānoa Budget Team's recommendations of ethnic studies "partnering" with other departments

Brian Chung <chungb@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:30 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

September 16, 2020

Testimony to UH Board of Regents on Mānoa Budget Team's recommendations of "partnerships" with other departments

Dear Board of Regents:

My name is Brian Su-Jen Chung and I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa. My path to becoming an educator began as an undergraduate student majoring in ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego. It was there that I met faculty in ethnic studies who inspired me to consider a college education as not simply a means to employment, but a space of which to think imaginatively of a more just world I would want to live in with others as well as my moral responsibility in shaping that possible future. I had the privilege to take classes from faculty, whose lives and experiences "outside" of the academy included labor organizing, activism in the U.S. civil rights movement, and black popular music (to name a few), instilled in me and fellow majors a sense of the extent that our education mattered and could (and had) created meaningful change for underserved communities in the Greater San Diego area and beyond. These faculty nurtured our curiosity and creativity and many of us upon graduating applied our knowledge, critical thinking skills, and political commitments to social justice cultivated in our classrooms to a wide range of jobs in education, journalism, public media, and marketing. My undergraduate training in ethnic studies and the close relationships I fostered with faculty and students was an empowering experience that has led me to where I am today.

I started a tenure track position at UHM in Fall 2012 and I am proud of my department and the work that we have collectively done to meet the needs of our students within a changing economic and political climate. Our current students and graduates are passionate about staying in Hawai'i and serving their communities. Many of them have pursued professions that allow them to shape difficult conversations and policies around issues of race, class, and gender inequality here in Hawai'i. They have brought their passion for social justice to labor organizing efforts, local and national politics, education, youth mentoring, film and television production, and land development. Their work advocates for the working peoples of Hawai'i and signals their impassioned connection to place as they continue to investigate the experiences and histories of Native Hawaiians and locals. Recently, our department has added faculty whose expertise and knowledge in black studies, digital studies, and sustainability and environmental justice are at the center of contemporary political discourse and policy in the United States. Their research focus helps our students prepare to address the challenges of the world that we are currently facing. We remain committed to helping our students develop their own ways of creating positive change for themselves, their families, and communities and our record continues to reflect that and much more.

I encourage the BOR to reaffirm the autonomy of the Department of Ethnic Studies to determine the partnerships and collaborations that we pursue in the future. It is important to recognize the leadership and achievements of my department since its inception as evidenced by the political and community leaders as well as artists and academics we have produced and the work they have accomplished. Their innovative thinking and compassionate leadership is what is needed in our world today. It is understandable that budget cuts are unavoidable. However, I challenge the BOR to support ethnic studies and to invest in the people, cultures, and communities of Hawai'i.

Regards,

Dr. Brian Su-Jen Chung

Brian Su-Jen Chung
Associate Professor
Ethnic Studies Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa
[2560 Campus Road](#)
George Hall, 307
Honolulu, HI 96822

9/16/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - Testimony to UH Board of Regents on Mānoa Budget Team's recommendations of ethnic studies "partnering" ...

chungb@hawaii.edu

808-956-5086



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Re: Budget Recommendations - BOR Meeting 9/17/2020

Loreto Coloma <colomajr.loreto@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:11 AM

Dear Chair Kudo and Board of Regents,

In response to the Budget Committee Suggestions in planning for the post-pandemic future of the University, I would like to strongly support the continuation of the BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures.

My name is Loreto Coloma, Jr. and I am a 2013 graduate of the program with a concentration in Ilokano. I was fortunate to be able to be a part of this program as it continued to grow to where it is today, more than tripling its majors since 2012. It allowed me a chance to connect with peers who were also born to immigrant parents from the Philippines, think critically about the issues around being Filipino in Hawaii, and continue to learn more about the language that is continuing to become a much needed skill in the state today. Much of my own observations growing up were largely complemented by the history and conversations through my studies in this program. More practically, in the last year I've been contacted by people both at work and in my professional networks for language translation help.

Even prior to becoming a permanent program, the popularity of some of its courses has continued to grow. Filipinos now make up a quarter of the state population but continue to be underrepresented at the University. Rather than attempting to reincorporate this degree, it should be allowed to continue to grow. As the University continues to look for solutions to prepare for its financial future, it should also continue to recognize the importance of its unique programs.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Loreto Coloma, Jr.



Letter of support for Ethnic Studies

Jennifer Darrah <jdarrah@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:28 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Laurel Mei-Singh <meisingh@hawaii.edu>, Ty Tengan <ttengan@hawaii.edu>, Katherine Irwin <kirwin@hawaii.edu>

Mahalo for considering the attached letter as my testimony in support of the UH Department of Ethnic Studies for the 9/17 BOR meeting.

sincerely,

--

Jennifer Darrah-Okike, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Office: Saunders 235
[2424 Maile Way](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96822](#)
jdarrah@hawaii.edu
808-956-7950



BOR letter support for Ethnic Studies-2020-9-16.pdf

190K

September 16, 2020

Board of Regents Testimony

Dear Board of Regents,

Mahalo for all you do for our community and our University and for Hawai'i's people.

I speak as a faculty member in the department of Sociology. It is a great honor to work at UH, a university I cherish.

I was saddened and disappointed to hear of potential weakening of Ethnic Studies, a sister department where I am a faculty affiliate.

Ethnic Studies embodies the spirit, scholarship, research, and ethic that makes me so proud to serve and teach at UH. The faculty, students, and alumni are my personal and professional role models. I am also writing on behalf of other senior faculty members in the Department of Sociology.

The impact and import of Ethnic Studies at UH go well beyond traditional and easy 'metrics'.

I see Ethnic Studies as one of the hearts of our University. **World class research about Hawai'i** has consistently come from Ethnic Studies' faculty. I teach courses on Hawai'i. Every semester, I teach from brilliant books and writing that come out of this department. It's hard to over-estimate the impact and reach of this work on Hawai'i and its seminal contributions.

Ethnic studies is a touchpoint for me and so many others in terms of how to advance **racial and ethnic equity in our communities**, state and the world. The time has never been more pressing to learn from their scholarship and teaching on racial and ethnic equity. Ethnic Studies also 'walks the walk' when it comes to inclusion. They lead the way in serving students representing all of Hawai'i's people. Importantly, Ethnic Studies has done an exemplary job recruiting and retaining faculty from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They embody the diversity many of us yearn for across our institutions.

Ethnic Studies faculty and students provide a model for us as a university in terms of how we can **engage with and serve Hawai'i's communities**. ES faculty are leaders in **service-learning**. Our communities and history in Hawai'i are special. The faculty in this department have longstanding community ties. They have nurtured trust with people in Hawai'i over *decades*. This has positive ripple effects for so many of us and quite literally roots our university. Here are just a few examples:

-Because of ES faculty, especially Professor Davianna McGregor, I and countless others have spent time growing as students, teachers, community members, and citizens by learning about and visiting Kaho'olawe. Professor Davianna McGregor and a team lead faculty professional development trips to Kaho'olawe in the last two years (this is in addition of countless trips she has led for students over the decades). This was a profoundly impactful learning and professional growth experience for faculty. It deepened our appreciation for Hawai'i, its people, its histories, and the lessons that

Hawai‘i holds about how we as people can care for our natural places. I brought this learning and appreciation of aloha ‘āina into my classroom.

-ES faculty are **leaders in service-learning**. Through ES ties, my students have participated in service learning projects from Palolo to Waianae. Due the trust ES faculty and staff have earned working in communities and doing respectful and accountable research, they have created opportunities for faculty and students throughout the university. My students have consistently participated in the *mālama i nā ahupa‘a* program and several others (developed by ES faculty *over decades* and in recent years under the wise and strong leadership of Professor Ulla Hasager). Time and again my students of **all different racial and ethnic backgrounds** have told me how impactful these learning experiences have been. These powerful learning experiences have shaped their careers and affirmed their commitments to do work in Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has been and should continue to be a leader in Ethnic Studies. As we all weather these difficult times, I urge you to be mindful of our long term legacies as a University that we will carry through and that must be there for us after this financial storm.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. P. Darrah-Okike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Darrah-Okike, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Faculty Affiliate Department of Ethnic Studies



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony in Support of the Philippine Languages and Literatures program and Dept. of IPLL

Danny Domingo <danny9@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:59 AM

Aloha,

Attached below is my testimony and letter of support for the Philippine Languages and Literatures program and Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures.

Mahalo,

Danny Santos Domingo, Jr.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2021

B.S. Candidate in Biology

B.A. Candidate in Philippine Language & Literature: Ilokano

Math and Science Tutor | Online Learning Academy

President | Timpuyog Organization

Minority Health Research Training Program (MHRT) 2020

(808) 298-8877 | dannysdomingo@gmail.com



Domingo IPLL Testimony.pdf

56K

16 September 2020

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

My name is Danny Domingo, Jr. I am a senior undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa double majoring in Biology and Philippine Language and Literature (Ilokano). I am writing in support of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL).

As a heritage language learner of Ilokano, I found the Ilokano program to be foundational to these formative years of college. There is no other program in the world that offers a Bachelor's degree in Ilokano Language and Literature, which is what makes such a program invaluable to UHM. Unequal multilingualism in the Philippines causes many Filipinos to turn away from their vernacular language in favor of the national languages of English and Tagalog-based Filipino. These languages are perceived as a method of rising from poverty and associated with higher socioeconomic status for Filipinos in the diaspora. The diversity in vernacular languages, therefore, have become undervalued through institutionalized linguistic, and thus, social stratification. The Ilokano program at UHM intellectualizes the Ilokano language and gives heritage language learners, like me, the unique opportunity to see our family's native tongue in an academic context, increasing its perception as a language worthy of being learned and passed down to future generations. As the population of second and third generation Filipinos in the diaspora grow, we become increasingly detached from our culture. The Philippine Languages and Literatures program draws youth to UHM, not only those from Hawai'i, but from the worldwide diaspora of displaced Filipinos.

If it were not for UHM's general education language requirement, I would have never thought to look for this program. Ilokano is my family's mothertongue which I grew up hearing everyday, but was never able to claim as my own. The course offerings at UHM gave me the foundation and confidence to be able to speak Ilokano and claim it as my language as well. It has been an endearing journey in which I have explored the intricacies of a language I used to see as foreign and unattainable. I let the language into my heart, learning about my family, and in the process forged a family of my own through the program.

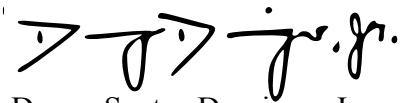
I went on to join the Timpuyog Ilokano Student Organization, for which I now serve as President. UHM's Ilokano program has contributed to the intellectualization and accessibility of Ilokano by providing a standard education in a language for which educational materials are sparse, even in the motherland. Although Ilokano is the most spoken language in Hawai'i other than English, many people I encounter have never heard of it. The Timpuyog Organization is composed of students enrolled in Ilokano and IP courses. Students often take IP courses to fulfill

their general education requirements or are Filipinos interested in learning more about our culture, or both. These courses and this program are outreach for the Ilokano community to increase their presence, provide educational opportunities for community members, and help Ilokano youth develop pride in their culture. These opportunities are virtually absent in the Ilokano diaspora of Hawai‘i, making this program an invaluable resource.

As a pre-medical student, I will use my command of the Ilokano language that I have gained through my studies to address health inequities and health disparities for the Filipino community in Hawai‘i. This past summer, I translated research materials for my study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Filipinos in Hawai‘i in order to have more Ilokano voices represented. I have also been translating COVID-19 information into Ilokano as part of outreach efforts with the Philippine Medical Association of Hawai‘i. Without the Ilokano program, I would not have had the language skills to be able to conduct these projects, which are of utmost importance during these times when Filipinos are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Ilokano program teaches students who go on to work in different fields and utilize their language skills in medicine, healthcare, tourism, business, and law to name a few. Considering 25% of the population in the State of Hawai‘i are Filipino and about 80% of Filipinos here are Ilokano, there is no doubt they will utilize Ilokano in their future career.

The disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic stress the need to address health disparities and health inequities for communities, for example, those with limited-English proficiency. The Department of IPLL teaches students who will make up a competent workforce bridging gaps in language access for Hawai‘i’s multilingual population, and gaps in cultural barriers for the multicultural population. The languages in IPLL have been historically marginalized. However, UH is in a unique position to boast these language resources, which is why the reorganization of the Department of IPLL and Philippine Languages and Literatures program should shift towards greater investment to serve the multicultural community in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Santos Domingo, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Danny Santos Domingo, Jr.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Importance of Life Sciences at UH Manoa

Don Drake <dondrake@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:28 AM

Dear Board Members,

I would like to offer the following in support of the School of Life Sciences at UH Manoa. I apologize for the terse nature of the message, but time is an especially limited resource this semester.

The School of Life Sciences, and everything it involves, is doing work that is highly relevant to critical problems facing the state--and the rest of the world--*right now*. And these problems are only getting worse. The two international reports below have been published in the last couple of weeks, and they provide compelling evidence that the disciplines and activities undertaken in Life Sciences are vital, and that the School of Life Sciences must be supported if we are to fulfill our obligations to the state, its people, its extraordinary natural environment, and to the rest of the planet.

The [WWF Living Planet Report 2020](#). A key finding is that the average wildlife population has **declined by 68%** since 1970.

The [UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook](#). A key finding is that **none** of the Aichi targets for 2020 have been met.

Both of these reports have been widely covered in the international media.

Sincerely,

--

Don Drake

Professor, Associate Director
School of Life Sciences
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>


A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

Geraldine Euplas <geuplas@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:14 AM

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Geraldine Euplas
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
College of Natural Sciences - *BS Candidate in Molecular Cell Biology*
College of Arts, Languages and Letters - *BA Candidate in Philippine Language & Literature (Ilokano)*

 **A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration.pdf**
72K

A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

My name is Geraldine Euplas, born and raised on the island of Maui, a first generation student, and a candidate the Bachelor of Arts in the Philippine Language & Culture with a concentration in Ilokano, and a candidate in the Bachelor of Science in Molecular Cell Biology, and I hereby OPPOSE the University of Hawai'i Administration's HIGHLY UNACCEPTABLE proposal of eliminating the BA in Philippine Language and Culture.

When I decided to attend the University of Hawai'i, I would have never guessed the impact the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program would have on me. However, I am grateful to have the opportunity to participate and be a part of the program because of its influence in my own personal and academic growth. This program allowed me to learn my mother tongue, that of which is already slowly becoming endangered.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures. And upon gaining permanent status in 2013, The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has been catering to this population

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, there are 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, they currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, there are multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone there were 60+ students waitlisted for the IP courses and were unable to take the course because they were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the

healthcare industry and in-service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Regards,



Geraldine Euplas



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of Philippine Languages & Literatures BA

Rebecca Goldschmidt <rimgoldsc@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:28 AM

To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, bor@hawaii.edu

Cc: Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, Michael Bruno <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, Michael Bruno <mbruno@hawaii.edu>, David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>

Aloha e BOR, President Lassner, Provost Bruno, and Dean Arnade,

Please [see this document](#) of Letters in Support of the BA in Philippine Languages and Literature. This is a collection of statements and letters from students, alumni, and community members who have written the Philippine Languages and Literatures faculty to express their support for the program. Some have already sent their statements and letters to the BOR directly but some sent theirs to us to be included in a collection of statements.

Please consider these as testimony for the Board of Regents Meeting tomorrow.

Mahalo nui,

Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt

--

rebecca maria goldschmidt

master of fine arts
dept. of art & art history
university of hawaii'i at mānoa

The following are statements and letters from current students, alumni, community members and allies in support of the BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures:

The University of Hawaii is unique in offering the breadth in courses and certification of proficiency in Philippine languages and cultures. In particular, there is no program for the study of the Ilocano language that rivals the one in Manoa. Considering the importance and value, the sheer number, of Filipinos in Hawaii, many of whom are Ilocano, this program is crucial for the cultural exchange and collaboration between Hawaii and the Philippines.

Aloha,
Kevin Baetscher

To the UH Board of Regents,
Hello, my name is Sheila Ringor, I am currently in my 3rd year at UH Mānoa double majoring in Political Science and Sustainability Studies with a minor in Filipino. Filipinos make up 25% of the population in Hawai'i and we make up 11% of the student body at UH Mānoa. 11% of those students find themselves connected to the Philippine Languages and Literatures program either through Ilokano or Tagalog. The program itself is very important to many of us as it is one way we represent ourselves in Hawai'i, and this is where we manage to reconnect with our roots as we are thousands of miles away from home. The Philippine Languages and Literatures program does not only teach their students about languages but this is a place where most of us learn about our history, cultures, and traditions. For example, I've taken FIL 401, 402, and I am currently taking IP 370. Within FIL 401 and 402, I was able to meet diaspora Filipinos who made their way up from FIL 101 to these high level courses since they were determined to learn the language, and it was a way for them to reclaim their Filipino identity. I was able to make a deep connection with the people within these courses and especially within the program, I found a sense of community at the University to which I struggled to find during my freshman year of college. Currently, with IP 370 Philippine Travelogue: Peoples, Places, and Practices, we learn about the Indigenous people of the Philippines, which is not commonly taught. This is why many are uneducated with this topic that lead to the result of othering Indigenous tribes in the Philippines from the dominant "mainstream" Filipinos. But IP 370 gave me a sense of hope that as more people become aware of the Indigenous people of the Philippines, we can put an end to the continuous battle that these tribes have to face from being looked down upon as well as being displaced from their own land.

Overall, being part of the program has made my academic career much more valuable because I felt accomplished and connected with my people. With the plan of budget cuts and the proposed "stop-out of the BA in Philippine Language and Literature", I believe that this will bring no good to Filipinos and non-Filipinos that were able to find home within the program. Such act also go against what UH Mānoa has been advertising towards their students which is "diversity and inclusion", there is no diversity and inclusion in a place where departments such

as Ethnic Studies, Women Studies, Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL), and so on are continuously being targeted with budget cuts and “stop-outs”. Majority of the people within these departments are people of color, the Philippine Language and Culture hosts vulnerable communities in Hawai’i such as Filipinos. During these trying times with COVID-19 as well as BLM movements in Hawai’i and the continental U.S., this sudden budget cuts for these departments are almost undeniably an act of institutional racism.

Sincerely,
Sheila Ringor

Dear UH Board of Regents,

I write to you in order to tell you of how the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has impacted my learning here in Hawai’i and why the University should *not* eliminate the program. Although I actually do not major in Filipino, studying my culture and my language through taking courses from the program has been an important part of my education here at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. Taking these courses helped me reach back to the culture that I was once fully immersed in; the department, and what it stands for, is a reminiscent part of me and my culture. These courses did not just help me academically, but also helped me with being responsible, respectful, and aware of my own history as well as others. I plead to you all to stop this proposal to "stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture" as well as the reorganization of the Dept. of the IPLL. Doing so will be detrimental to the University and its students. The whole entire department has been a community to all the Filipinos and others who are interested in our culture and language. It is unfair and unethical to cut out a whole entire department that represents a huge part of the University as well as the island of Hawai’i. I remind you that cutting these programs is a form of institutional racism and is therefore unacceptable to the University’s ethos. If the University really believes in delivering a "multicultural experience" that adheres to the "principles of sustainability and essence of aloha" as the University’s website states, then these recent cuttings of programs should be dismissed and put to an end. Thank you for your time.

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I hope this helps. I know this is only a small part of a whole entire people fighting against this unfair handling and cutting of the programs. Have a great evening!

Best,
Alessandra Talabong

Dear Board of Regents,

Please remove the proposal to "stop-out" the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and the reorganization of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL) into a non-degree granting "Center."

This attack on Philippine languages is a disservice to the Filipinos of Hawai'i, who are the second largest ethnic group in these islands. The ability to access and study Philippine language, history and culture at this University is very important for the empowerment of Filipinos.

Filipinos have migrated to Hawai'i because of a history of colonization which is tied to the history of Native Hawaiian's colonization. The Philippines is currently under dire political-economic stress and it is crucial to maintain Hawaii-based Filipino people's capacity to remember, learn, connect and help our communities back in the Philippines.

Filipinos migrate to Hawaii and become part of the working class. Assimilating into the dominant economic culture has been the survival mechanism of our community. But that is why we need the Philippine language and literature program BA to help undergraduate Filipinos access the history and languages of the Philippines so they can speak to their parents and relatives.

This is the benefit I gained from the Philippine Language program, particularly the Ilocano Language Acquisition and Immersion for the New Generation (iLAING). This community based language program, led by UH Manoa's Ilocano language professors and community leaders, has helped me improve my first language, Ilocano. I was born in Hawai'i, but when I went through the public school system, dominated by English, I slowly lost fluency. But the chance to benefit from the Ilocano language department's community based program helped me to understand, appreciate, and speak to my parents and relatives back in the Philippines, in our Native language. I am able to understand their decisions and situations, and reverse the patterns of disconnection to my culture and family's hometown issues.

I have also taken Philippine history classes in my undergraduate years. These classes opened my eyes to my own history and identity. Growing up as a Filipina in Hawai'i, I learned nothing of my history and identity within Hawai'i's K-12 DOE education. To threaten to stop-out this program at the University of Hawai'i is devastating and detrimental to the mental health and cultural human rights of Filipinos in Hawai'i, particularly its young people. Filipinos have contributed so much to the social and economic justice in Hawai'i, as workers who organized against the plantation oligarchy. Yet, to witness the University diminish our access to our history and culture is disrespectful to the contributions of the Filipino people who helped to improve the quality of life of everyone in these islands.

Please remove the proposal to "stop out" the Philippine Languages and Literatures and do not re-organize the Department of IPLLL into a non-degree "Center."

Instead, please fund and support these programs to the fullest extent, because the University must be relevant to the 2nd largest ethnic group in Hawai'i. If you seek to be a University that deals with the post-covid economy, you must fully support the growth of educational programs like Philippine Languages and Literatures and the Department of IPLLL, in order to empower this population to be active and informed participants of our islands' recovery.

Sincerely,

Ellen-Rae Cachola, Ph.D.

I am Paul John M. Castillo, junior student under the BA in Philippine Language and Culture Major in Ilocano. This letter will serve as my testimony and support to the program. The need for formal education of learning the Ilocano language and culture follows: 1) social benefits of belongingness and ease as a transfer student from the University of Hawaii- Maui College and immigrant from the Philippines, 2) cultural preservation and connection with customs, traditions, practices, and languages, 3) communal or community ties, gathering before the COVID, and remembering of Filipino identity, and 4) educational liberation, emancipatory, justice, and the basic right to education from the elementary, high school, college and higher level. Ilocano language has its play and role in the day-to-day of my life in the business and industry sector of Hawaii. Without the formal training and education, I would not be able to serve and to fulfill my duties and responsibilities in the diverse community. As I witness and experience, Nanas and Tatas (Filipino elderly) need assistance with a language interpreter in the stores and pharmacies. Ilocano immigrants with limited English proficiency needs help with bilingual cashiers, clerks, professional interpreter, and sales associates together with training, health, safety, and voters translations. This is the diversity and inclusion in which the program can help to produce for the private and public sectors. In addition, Ilocano workforce comprises 85% to 90% Filipinos in over 100 years of labor from the Ilocos Region, Philippines. Thus, I demand the University of Hawaii Manoa to continue the BA in Philippine Language and Culture Ilocano program.

Paul John M. Castillo

Dear President Lassner and U.H. Regents,

It will be a horrendous transgression and error to stop-out the Philippine Language and Culture B.A. program as has been recommended for alleged but unlikely cost-savings.

Given the large number of Filipinos in the islands and Hawaii's close ties and links with the Philippines, this makes no sense at all and can be viewed as racist and discriminatory.

Filipino workers have contributed much to our society and economy for over a century. Why deny them and their children and grandchildren the opportunity to study their culture and a Philippine language and obtain a B.A.?!

Please resist this recommendation and retain the B.A. program in Philippine Language and Culture at UHM.

Sincerely, John Witeck, UH alumnus

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sharlene Insong, UH alumni and former student of the Ilokano language program at UH. I am writing this letter in strong opposition of the University of Hawaii's proposal to "stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture".

I know that we are currently in a pandemic and times are hard however, I do not believe cutting this program will be a good solution to this problem. From my time at UH, I have taken Ilokano language courses as well as IP classes that have always been full of students and even students being waitlisted. Full enrollment in the program's courses shows that it is not a cost center, but rather it draws in many tuition-paying students.

Nevertheless, it is appalling to me that the budget cuts to programs in the university targeted departments that play an important role in the education of minority communities i.e women's studies, ethnic studies and the Philippine language and literature program. In this social political climate especially, we should be pushing for the expansion for these programs rather than cutting them. The University of Hawaii continues to focus on money rather than focusing on the education of language, culture and histories/issues of minority communities. In a capitalist society, this is expected, but should not be accepted. I urge the board to rethink the programs they have proposed to cut.

Additionally, Hawaii has a high population of Filipinos and many students are second generation Filipino-Americans who did not learn their language of their ancestors but come to UH to do so. I was one of these students. UH is the only university in the world that offers a BA in Ilokano and this should not be taken away for the sake of the community in Hawaii who need a place to learn about their culture and where they come from. The effects of colonialism and immigration continue to affect diasporic Filipinos/ second/third Filipino Americans who do not have physical ties to their homeland. The least UH can do to fix this, is provide funding to give students the opportunity to learn their language and culture.

Lastly, there is also a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures. I am currently a paralegal/AmeriCorps advocate for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii where I have seen the need for Tagalog and Ilokano speakers in legal services. Many clients that I speak to are vulnerable immigrants who know basic english and would otherwise not completely understand what I am saying in english. There are other times where I have heard that it is difficult for the courts to get an Ilokano interpreter. As you can see, my experience along with the huge filipino population in Hawaii, creates a great need for UH to continue to have the BA in Philippine languages and literature.

I hope this letter gets to you well, and you see the importance of this program for our students, future generations and community.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Insong

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Almond Jaye Ereno and I double majored in the Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Language and Literature with Ilokano concentration and Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduating in Fall 2012. I am writing this testimony in opposition of removing or cutting funding to the Philippine Language and Literature programs in both Ilokano and Tagalog. Obtaining my Ilokano degree has been important to me because it has opened many doors and possibilities in my career as an educator and as a nurse. The BA degree in Ilokano not only perfectly complemented my skill set and strengths as a nurse, it has broadened my understanding of the world and deepened my appreciation of my own culture and language. The tools and skills I have learned from the program has helped me in many ways. Some examples of the ways I have used my BA degree are; translating professional healthcare documents, teaching and cultivating the language in high school and in various educational/professional settings, interpreting for my patients and their family members through complex medical procedures, caring for my patients holistically whether it be in the hospital or in the community setting, and finally being able to write bilingual poems and children's stories in my native tongue that I am now in the cusp of publishing.

We all know that the State of Hawaii has a diverse population. A majority of its Filipino population speak multiple Philippine languages and a majority have Ilokano as their mother tongue. Sustaining and supporting the growth of the Filipino program helps our local population by being able to have college graduates that are more culturally aware of that distinction. I use Ilokano every day in my professional setting at Queen's Medical Center. By getting my degree in Ilokano, I am able to tailor the register of my Ilokano language to better serve my patients and the community. Every language matters, and I hope that by writing this, the university reconsiders its intent of removing or cutting funding to these programs. Your time in reading my testimony is much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Almond Jaye Ereno, RN, MSN

September 15, 2020

Hello! My name is Jairah Mae Pascual and I am in the process of declaring Philippines Language and Culture: Ilokano as my secondary major. I am currently waiting for my primary major, Public Health to sign the documents in order for me to send it to the Advising Center for College of Arts and Humanities and Languages, Linguistics and Literature. Like many students, I wasn't aware that we had an Ilokano program till I was researching what course to take to fulfill my language requirement for graduation. Prior to taking Ilokano courses, I could speak enough

to hold a conversation and my writing could be better but it was alright. Now, because of the Ilokano program, I am more confident in my speaking, comprehension and writing skills.

I can't imagine this program not existing because of how much it helped me grow personally, academically and how I will use it in my professional career. Personally, I have never felt so comfortable speaking Ilokano with anyone outside of my family. I was born and raised in the Philippines till my family moved here when I was six years old. Throughout elementary, middle and high school, I have never felt comfortable enough to talk to anyone outside of my family in Ilokano because people used to make fun and call me names for speaking the language and having an accent. For the past two years, the Ilokano program became my safe place. Being in class and surrounded by the friends I've made, I have never felt so happy. The Ilokano program and the people in it, made me feel so comfortable and I can't imagine students missing out in being part of this safe space.

Academically, the Ilokano program provides an opportunity for students to learn the Ilokano language, culture and grows one's identity. By this, be comfortable with speaking Ilokano and have actual conversations with family members (parents, grandparents, etc) and friends. Learning to be fluent in Ilokano has made my family so proud because I am learning their mother tongue and taking the initiative to learn more about my culture. The DramaFest that is usually held towards the end of every semester gave me an opportunity to showcase how well I am learning Ilokano. I did not only receive a confidence boost but it gave me a chance to practice my Ilokano outside a classroom space.

Being able to speak Ilokano is an invaluable skill to have, especially since I want to work with the Filipino community. Working with the community is part of Public Health and someday, I would like to create health materials and programs that are beneficial and necessary for the Filipino community. From personal experience, it's hard to ask for help and understand what is being told to you about your health if you don't speak or understand English well enough. I am hoping that once people are aware and know that I can speak and understand Ilokano, they would feel more comfortable and more willing to talk.

Overall, the Ilokano program plays a big role in various aspects of my personal, academic and professional life. I am in complete disagreement with the proposed stop-out of the BA and should not follow through. Keeping the Ilokano program which promotes diversity should be appreciated and kept. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Mahalo!

Jairah Mae Pascual

"Never forget where you come from!" my grandma would say, "always talk in Ilokano, so you don't forget your language!"

Arriving in Hawaii at the age of five from the Philippines, I knew nothing about the new world we were moving to. I knew that it was filled with opportunities - a land where dreams are fulfilled. From the moment we arrived, till my grandmother's death, I grew up with reminders to never

forget our homeland, and that a good education is the best way to success. The opportunity to learn more about the Philippines, my language, the culture and history, and gain an education came through the BA in Philippine Language and Literature (Ilokano) program at the UH Manoa. I gained much more than an education and friends, I learned about the land we left so long ago. And, it has propelled me into my current role as a high school Ilokano teacher. Currently, my students are showing interests in furthering their education at the college level and going deeper into the subjects that are taught in high school. The closing of the program or downsizing because of budgets goes against everything I've been taught as a Filipina immigrant – the importance of language, and the value of a good education. Without the Philippine Language and Literature Program (Ilokano) I would not be where I am today – a high school Ilokano teacher!

Jennifer Abella

“Many immigrant students in Kalihi are waiting for an Ilokano teacher.”

When I first came to the University in 2017, I had no concrete plan to spend my four years meaningfully. I am a first-generation college student, which means I worked hard to be in a college classroom. It was through the Ilokano program that it made me want to take the teaching route. I want to go back to my community someday to inspire fellow immigrant students to pursue higher education. I am two courses away from finishing my Ilokano degree and two semesters away from finishing my teaching degree. Please let the Philippine Language and Literature program continue to flourish; many students at my community are eagerly waiting for their Hero.

Mario Doropan

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa Board of Regents

Topic: Reorganization of College of Arts Languages and Letters

Kumustakayo amin. Hello everyone.

Siak ni Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. My name is Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. I am a second-generation Filipino immigrant, born and raised on Maui. I took classes in the Philippine and Indo-Pacific (IP) Languages and Literatures Programs from 2015 to 2018, and I served as an officer on the Timpuyog Ilokano Student Organization from 2016 to 2018. Agyamankami unay, thank you very much, for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition of reorganizing or cutting these languages and literature programs.**

This issue is important to me because I did not know much about the history and specific customs and traditions of my Filipino culture growing up. I did not know how to speak my own native language like my parents and family members could. My family did not know much about their own history, either, and there were no Filipino classes at all on Maui, aside from those at UH Maui College. I enrolled in Ilokano classes because I wanted to learn my native tongue, and because there is a huge Filipino population in Hawai'i, I wanted to be able to speak my native language to others and keep my culture alive. I also enrolled in IP 364 because I wanted to learn the history of my culture. Because of these programs, I learned so much more about my own culture and its history than I ever did in my entire life. Without them, I would not have known what I do now, and I would not have this much love and pride about my culture than I do now.

These programs are essential to UH because Hawai'i is home to a diverse population of people. On UH Mānoa's "About" page, as of Fall 2019, the university is, and I quote, "the most diverse university in terms of students and faculty". All of these programs are home to a diverse array of faculty, staff, and students, and by cutting them, that diversity will also be cut.

I urge you to continue funding these programs so that prospective students will be able to learn about their culture and history and utilize that knowledge in their future careers and daily lives like I am.

Agyamankami unay, maraming maraming salamat po. Thank you very much.

Agbiag ti Filipino. Long live Filipino.

Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio

Hello.

Aloha.

Kamusta po.

I am saddened at the news and in need to express my thoughts and feelings in intend to help save the program as I am currently taking a Minor degree for PHLL and Creative Media in Animation as my major. I will be graduating this fall and the very first one in many generations of my family to have a these kind of achievements. I am working really hard towards my goal and that is to be able to tell the stories of my culture. All the while working at the same time to be able to provide support for myself and my grandma living back in the Philippines.

The program has helped me in a lot of ways I couldn't even put into words. I never even thought of myself having to be involved in the program in the first place but it took me a lot of courage. To my surprise, I was able to explore the roots of my home that I never knew even though I graduated high school in the Philippines.

It was upsetting and heartbreaking to learn the past of my people but I didn't let the hate get to me but instead, I learned to be more compassionate. Our history has been long buried deep within that even the Philippines school system dare not to teach the generations of such harsh truths but rather always glamorizing the advance and primitive ways of the western invaders.

I use to be very embarrassed not just because of my skin but simply just because I am a Filipino. My culture has always been degraded among other Asian nation but I will not be ashamed of it anymore because it's part of who I am. I was able relearn the values that I had forgotten in order to adapt to this society.

The program continues to encourage its students, like me, to be able to participate actively and contribute to our community to help achieve everyday common goals. I encourage you to give a kind consideration to my plea to keep the program for the students that will come after me and not just for the sake of a degree but for me, for us, Filipinos, to relearn who we are, where we came from and the great values our ancestors has taught the past to move forward.

Mahalo.

Thank you.

Maramaing Salamat po.

Kaye Mayuga

To Whom it May Concern,

In deciding which colleges to attend, the University of Hawaii at Manoa stood out because of its offerings in Philippine culture and languages. Having the opportunity to be able to formally learn Tagalog and learn about my heritage, was a major factor and solidified my decision in attending Manoa. Not only have I become more aware and prouder of my Philippine heritage, I am able to better connect with my Tagalog speaking family. The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program is even of more importance to the Philippine community in Hawai'i in that it provides a college level education to the second largest population of Filipinos in the United States after California. Adding on, Manoa is only one of two universities in the country that offers such a program, and to have it removed goes against the University's proud history of diverseness, and multiethnic heritage.

Christian Lamer-Wolfewicz

A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

My name is Eugene Tunac Marquez, born and raised in the Philippines, a settler immigrant of the currently occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i for eleven years, a queer first-generation student with a senior standing, a candidate in the Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Philippine Language & Culture with a concentration in Ilokano, and I hereby OPPOSE the University of Hawai'i Administration's HIGHLY UNACCEPTABLE proposal of eliminating the BA in Philippine Language and Culture.

Upon my admittance to the University, I have never imagined myself to take part in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, let alone major in Ilokano, my native language. However, I am forever grateful to have the opportunity to participate and be a part of the program because of its prominent contributions to my own personal, academic, and political growth and development.

With the knowledge and insight that I gained whilst in the program, I realized how despite making up approximately 25% of Hawai'i's population, Filipinos are amongst the highly disadvantaged communities on the islands. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the Filipino community is an essential example. Recent data reveals that Filipinos and Pacific Islanders have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they make up a large number of what is deemed "essential workers". Furthermore, the Filipino community is overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry.

Being in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program not only allowed me to maintain my proficiency in my language and maintain my connection to my heritage, having been away from my homeland for numerous years, it also helped me learn about the failures of the current colonial capitalist systems that we are forced under. Cutting down the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and the program as a whole will not support the lives of the Filipino community and the sacrifices and struggles they had to endure. They will only contribute to the ongoing lack of support for the community.

Additionally, the elimination of the BA in Philippine Languages and Culture will not save the University money. The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has been consistent with its growth in terms of majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment in many of the classes. The classes offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and FOCUS requirements of the University. Every semester, there is often an amazing number of students waitlisting for the classes, but the program is unable to offer seats because the program is not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. With a firm statistic showing the strength of the number of tuition-paying students taking its courses, the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program is not what the administration calls a "cost center".

The University of Hawai'i Administration seems to be masking their true agenda behind the financial impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on the University. If the University's goal is to

“enhance opportunities for program and revenue growth,” then why is the administration cutting down some of the most socially crucial programs in the University? In addition to my growth and development in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, I have had the honor to take part in the Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies programs as well and gained numerous profound insights under these programs. The Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies departments struggled to establish their autonomies under the oppressive colonial capitalist systems in our society, but they have since become hubs of fostering the political awakenings in many students. Cutting these programs down, along with the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and other cultural programs, rightly exposes the administration’s continuing agenda to mute our voices, misappropriate our identities, steal our resources, and hiding behind their performative rhetoric.

Instead of eliminating and cutting down these programs, I question why haven’t the University of Hawai’i Administration consider cutting their pays, since many of the administrators earn way over \$250,000 and it is a highly reasonable measure that other universities are implementing in their pandemic response plans, and/or stop proposing a salary increase for multiple administrative positions which they will be doing during the BOR meeting on Thursday September 17, 2020.

I am appalled, but not surprised, by the administration’s decision to continue muting the voices of the people and cutting these programs will only be a part of the many evidence that reveal their agenda. I urge the University of Hawai’i Administration to stop using the pandemic as their reasonings in planning to dissolve these programs and tell us the real reasons why. Why is the administration damaging the strength of programs that are crucially important to the social and cultural growth of the University’s students?

I look forward to the University of Hawai’i Administration’s immediate withdrawal of these proposed cuts and to hearing their plans to preserve these programs and their responsibility to serve the community.

Regards,

Eugene Tunac Marquez

Living in an extremely diversified environment, I have found the importance of valuing and indulging into each and every opportunity there is to learn about these different cultures. I personally have immigrated here to Hawaii from the Philippines and have lost every chance to learn about my roots and my culture due to my community that is centered in colonized education. Upon entering UH Manoa, I had no idea that this institution was abundant with different classes and programs that will allow me to be able to finally learn about my culture. Through the experiences I have gained from only some of these classes, I have truly enjoyed what I learned and gained not only a lot of insight about my culture, but myself as well. It is

something that I wish many, many more people can experience because it is indeed eye opening and enlightening.

Being an institution that represents a community where such diverse cultures are combined, I would expect it to continuously give their students and faculty access to learn and enjoy these cultures. It is what makes this institution stand out from all the other institutions in the United States. UH Manoa's abundance in cultural programs are one of the biggest factors to why I decided to choose this institution, and I am sure that many other students valued this factor just the same. Taking away these programs will not only be a loss of opportunities, but will be a loss to UH Manoa's overall student body and reputation.

Charieze Lianne Cacayorin

My name is Loreto Coloma, Jr. and I am a 2013 graduate of the program with a concentration in Ilokano. I was fortunate to be able to be a part of this program as it continued to grow to where it is today, more than tripling its majors since 2012. It allowed me a chance to connect with peers who were also born to immigrant parents from the Philippines, think critically about the issues around being Filipino in Hawaii, and continue to learn more about the language that is continuing to become a much needed skill in the state today. Much of my own observations growing up were largely complemented by the history and conversations through my studies in this program. More practically, in the last year I've been contacted by people both at work and in my professional networks for language translation help.

Even prior to becoming a permanent program, the popularity of some of its courses has continued to grow. Filipinos now make up a quarter of the state population but continue to be underrepresented at the University. Rather than attempting to reincorporate this degree, it should be allowed to continue to grow. As the University continues to look for solutions to prepare for its financial future, it should also continue to recognize the importance of its unique programs.

Loreto Coloma Jr.

Kumustakayo University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

My name is Krizhna Bayudan and I am writing to you in regards to saving my beloved Philippine Languages and Literature Program (PHLL Program) from being cut from the budget. This program has challenged me to practice curiosity, gifted me with a home away from home, and facilitated a major turning point in my life. Being part of this program encouraged me to have a deeper connection to my heritage and for that, I am forever grateful and indebted to this program.

Even though I already know how to speak Ilokano from when I was young, I still have a long learning journey ahead of me. I have to boost competency in my reading and writing skills as I have never practiced that since attending the University. There is still so much history, language, and traditions to discover. For example, my curiosity explored uncharted family histories when completing assignments. One of our assignments was to write about the immigration of our parents to America from the Philippines. Now, the stories and laughter I shared with my parents when completing this assignment, is forever sketched in my memory. Inquiring about the language and experiences with my parents has strengthened my relationship with them. Yet, there are still much more stories to unearth.

One of the most impactful parts of this program is being with the people. Going into class feels like going into a “talk story” session with my big family. I always have great fun and learn more and more each day being with them. I have created lifelong friendships by learning about my classmates’ family backgrounds, their favorite Filipino foods, dreams, etc. These classes are always my comfort and different from any other courses I have taken. Unlike regular lectures, they enforce interactive learning. One day, we learned about the traditional “igad” or coconut grater. We practiced grating the coconut meat it in person, cooked traditional coconut sticky rice, and created palm leaf wrappers for it. I am thankful to share my cultural truths and engage in hands-on learning with my fellow classmates and teachers.

Being in this program has fostered the growth of my dreams of giving back to the community. I hope to graduate from the University with a B.S. in Biology AND a B.A. in Philippine Language and Literature: Ilokano and then move onto medical school. I hope to stay in Hawaii to serve the Ilokano community by being competent enough in the language to prevent any language barriers. By continuing my education in the Philippine Languages, I will be equipped to make my patients feel comfortable and heard.

The perpetuation of our language is the perpetuation of our culture. The Filipino culture is extremely prevalent in Hawaii. Hawaii is a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities, and that is what makes us so unique. The PHLL Program is the only program in the United States that allows students to graduate with a degree in the Philippine Languages. This is what sets the University apart from others. The removal of this impressive program will sever opportunities to preserve our culture and ultimately disregard the University’s reputation of diversity. I entrust your leadership will guide us to the continuation of valuable heritage and language learning.

Agyamanak unay,

Krizhna Bayudan

The main reason I was drawn to go to the University of Hawaii as opposed to elsewhere on the mainland was solely because of the Ilokano program. I grew up in an incredibly diverse area (and went to the most diverse high school in my state), but I did not get to grow up in a Filipino community. My mom immigrated to the US really young and lost her ability to speak her own

language, which created a language (and therefore, culture) barrier between us and the rest of our family. Even though I only have the vocabulary of a first year student, I was able to go home last Christmas and understand so much more of what my family was saying. Being able to study my family's language gave me access to the best part of Filipino culture: being close with your family.

Studying language is widely beneficial. Language impacts perception because of the subtle implications behind words and grammar structure, and knowing this fosters understanding of how language and culture are related. The nuances present in Ilokano and Tagalog are not the same as those in the popularly taught romance languages. Getting rid of the Philippine Language program means narrowing exposure to other worldviews. In a day and age that is so divisive, we need cross-cultural understanding more than ever, and I urge the university to understand that cutting the Philippine Languages program has more negative implications than positive ones.

Samantha Miller

My name is Caterina Po and I took FIL302 Third Level Filipino and am currently taking IP360 Filipino Food, Music, and Rituals both taught by the IPLL Department. These two courses have contributed significantly to my experience at University of Hawaii especially as a foreign international student. The two classes have enriched my cultural understanding of the Philippines, widened my perspectives, and taught critical skills. But more importantly, the two classes have provided a platform to allow me to reconnect and rediscover my Filipino heritage and roots. Too often today, underrepresented cultures are cast aside and undervalued. The existence of a department dedicated to teaching Pacific languages and literature demonstrates University of Hawaii's recognition that Pacific cultures are worth teaching. It is why I love this university, why I feel a sense of belonging here despite the big population, why I feel empowered to be a Filipino studying at this University. These are values and sentiments directly associated with my participation in IPLL courses. To abolish the BA programme in Philippine Language and Literature under IPLL would be a disservice not only to Filipino students but the entire community at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Caterina Po

Dear President Lassner & the UH Board of Regents,

I write to STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed elimination of The Philippine Languages and Literatures degree programs in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL). 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."

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and the Department of IPLL is needed in the community because Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. Ilokano and Tagalog speakers have such a larger community need in Hawaii especially for professionals who are skilled in Philippine histories and cultures in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services. This program has helped me personally because growing up I did not learn how to speak the Tagalog language but now I can speak, write, and translate. I took my first Filipino course in my first semester of college in my freshman year and have continued to take a course every semester since then to get my BA. This program provided direct training in maintaining my literacy in my heritage language. Academically, the courses provided have challenged me to improve my writing and speaking skills. This program has also helped me fulfill my language requirements and other GE requirements. Professionally, I have been on the executive board for the Katipunan Club at UH Manoa, which has allowed me to gain leadership skills and to network with other organizations on neighboring islands as well as on the mainland. This program will help me in the future as a Physician practicing in Hawaii to communicate with new immigrants from the Philippines to get appropriate healthcare.

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 our BA in Philippine Language and Literature Program.

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

Respectfully,
Eunice Bala

To Whom this May concern,

My name is Clarissa Rago. I am a first-generation Filipino college student and Ethnic Studies major opposing the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Languages and

Literature. Being of Filipino ancestry, it is essential to keep this degree as it is the only degree of its kind to be offered in America. The importance of this program is to keep with the diversity the University prides itself on establishing.

For the University to propose this discontinuation of these degrees for the fiscal year 2021-2022, the program will lose out on vital research to contribute to the greater Hawai'i community and mobilize the predominant Filipino youth in the Islands. It is no secret the vast majority of the Hawai'i residency is Filipino. I ask that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents reconsider their budget cuts as this hit will significantly impact the broader community. These courses have shaped me to truly strive to be a more community-oriented member and work more in youth outreach. These programs have given me a better insight into working with the youth in our public schools and help guide them into understanding that the University is rich in resources here for them to partake. The Philippine language and literature courses have helped recognize that Filipinos do not lack representation in the community but rather provide a safe place to have these discussions on the city on the next step to better serve our the community. To cut these programs is incredibly tone-deaf and will harm the diversity the University strives to uphold. Please reconsider the impact this will have. Thank you for your understanding.

Clarissa Rago

Aloha,

My name is Lanail Manio and I am one of the fortunate graduates of the Philippine Language and Literature program this past 2019. Ive had the privilege to be a part of a community of racially diverse, multicultural individuals with such open mindsets when it comes to inclusivity as a part of the PHLL program. Not only did I grow within this community as a student but I was grateful enough to have worked side by side with some of the most brilliant professors and lecturers the University could ask for. UH has always been a community within a community that screams diversity which is one of the beauties that I appreciated it for, and the PHLL program was the heart of it. It was a privilege to have learned and be molded by the program so pains me to know that there is even an argument for its place at the UH and taking it away is not the solution. When my family migrated to Hawaii, I grew up longing for that sense of inclusivity and when I was finding my way as a college student, I found it the most within the PHLL community. I am but only one of the hundreds of students who stand with me.

Mahalo,
Lanail Manio

To whom it may concern,

My name is Irene Joy Cabuloy, a fifth year undergraduate student here at University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in biology and minoring in Ilokano language. I am writing this letter in opposition to cutting the BA program in Philippine Languages and Literatures and the IPLL language programs. I

am aware that due to this global pandemic, the University is responding to an economic crisis. In the provost message sent to us on September 11, 2020, it stated that these painful measures are necessary for “more effective and cut costs.” However, cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its existence in the 1970’s, this program has continued to thrive and grow.

In that same message sent to students, faculty and staff, it is also stated that your value is “measured by the quality and impact of our student learning, our scholarship and our service in the community” and that you “serve the state best when your graduates succeed” and when your “services advance the communities you are embedded to.” But let me ask you this: how will cutting our program benefit our students or the community? The BA in Ilokano language in specific, is the first and ONLY university in the world that offers this. Removing this program will be a huge blow in our efforts to serve our community academically, professionally and personally.

I can confidently and proudly say that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has done so much for me as a Filipino-American, a first generation college student and as a person. Two years ago, I took IP 364 Philippine Popular Culture and ILO 201 Intermediate Ilokano which are courses offered by this program. It was because of IP 364 that inspired me and motivated me to learn more about my culture whose history was barely covered in middle school and high school. It was because of ILO 201 that I decided to minor in Ilokano to develop my proficiency in the language. In more ways that I can think of, this program has changed my life for the better.

I aspire to become a physician with hopes to practice medicine in Hawaii and it is my goal to serve this community that raised me. It took me 21 years to learn the importance of language and realize how that would benefit my future patients. Recently, I learned that Filipinos are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (following Pacific Islanders) and that we are the biggest group in COVID deaths. This is due to many reasons including limited access to healthcare and overrepresentation in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry in which Filipinos are deemed “essential workers” and because of that, they must work during the pandemic. An added barrier to seeking healthcare is reflected in language barriers in which many have limited English proficiency and health care literacy. In addition, the system’s lack of translational services in Ilokano and Tagalog which are especially important in tele-health services. This is why this BA program is so important because it serves our community in more ways than one.

I cannot and refuse to imagine this university without this program. It would be a shame to know that the students after me will not get the same experience as I did and be offered these wonderful opportunities. So I am requesting to remove the BA program in Philippine Languages and Literatures and the IPLL language programs from the post-COVID initiative of budget cuts.

I arrived to the UH from Singapore and Metro Manila to serve the population on campus as a Filipina American professor. I was heartened during my campus visit by the Philippine studies program, and by the enormous population of Philippine students eager to learn and research. It is despair-inducing to see leadership proposing to stop the BA in Philippine Language and Culture, a degree necessary and unique in the world, a degree affirming of a postcolonial

nation's history and identity. I urge the university to keep, invest in, and build this program, not cut it. Over a century ago, The United States of America colonized and plundered the Philippines. Stopping the BA in Philippine Language and Culture would devalue and erase the history and contributions of the Philippines and its people, much like Americans did in 1898 and beyond. To counter this continuing harm, UH should continue to invest in its students and faculty through the BA in Philippine Language and Culture. Doing so would prove, with material and institutional support, that UH is indeed an anticolonial, decolonizing institution, ready to heal instead of becoming complicit in a damaging legacy.

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo, Assistant Professor of English, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

16 September 2020

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

My name is Danny Domingo, Jr. I am a senior undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa double majoring in Biology and Philippine Language and Literature (Ilokano). I am writing in support of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL).

As a heritage language learner of Ilokano, I found the Ilokano program to be foundational to these formative years of college. There is no other program in the world that offers a Bachelor's degree in Ilokano Language and Literature, which is what makes such a program invaluable to UHM. Unequal multilingualism in the Philippines causes many Filipinos to turn away from their vernacular language in favor of the national languages of English and Tagalog-based Filipino. These languages are perceived as a method of rising from poverty and associated with higher socioeconomic status for Filipinos in the diaspora. The diversity in vernacular languages, therefore, have become undervalued through institutionalized linguistic, and thus, social stratification. The Ilokano program at UHM intellectualizes the Ilokano language and gives heritage language learners, like me, the unique opportunity to see our family's native tongue in an academic context, increasing its perception as a language worthy of being learned and passed down to future generations. As the population of second and third generation Filipinos in the diaspora grow, we become increasingly detached from our culture. The Philippine Languages and Literatures program draws youth to UHM, not only those from Hawai'i, but from the worldwide diaspora of displaced Filipinos.

If it were not for UHM's general education language requirement, I would have never thought to look for this program. Ilokano is my family's mothertongue which I grew up hearing everyday, but was never able to claim as my own. The course offerings at UHM gave me the foundation and confidence to be able to speak Ilokano and claim it as my language as well. It has been an endearing journey in which I have explored the intricacies of a language I used to see as foreign

and unattainable. I let the language into my heart, learning about my family, and in the process forged a family of my own through the program.

I went on to join the Timpuyog Ilokano Student Organization, for which I now serve as President. UHM's Ilokano program has contributed to the intellectualization and accessibility of Ilokano by providing a standard education in a language for which educational materials are sparse, even in the motherland. Although Ilokano is the most spoken language in Hawai'i other than English, many people I encounter have never heard of it. The Timpuyog Organization is composed of students enrolled in Ilokano and IP courses. Students often take IP courses to fulfill their general education requirements or are Filipinos interested in learning more about our culture, or both. These courses and this program are outreach for the Ilokano community to increase their presence, provide educational opportunities for community members, and help Ilokano youth develop pride in their culture. These opportunities are virtually absent in the Ilokano diaspora of Hawai'i, making this program an invaluable resource.

As a pre-medical student, I will use my command of the Ilokano language that I have gained through my studies to address health inequities and health disparities for the Filipino community in Hawai'i. This past summer, I translated research materials for my study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Filipinos in Hawai'i in order to have more Ilokano voices represented. I have also been translating COVID-19 information into Ilokano as part of outreach efforts with the Philippine Medical Association of Hawai'i. Without the Ilokano program, I would not have had the language skills to be able to conduct these projects, which are of utmost importance during these times when Filipinos are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Ilokano program teaches students who go on to work in different fields and utilize their language skills in medicine, healthcare, tourism, business, and law to name a few. Considering 25% of the population in the State of Hawai'i are Filipino and about 80% of Filipinos here are Ilokano, there is no doubt they will utilize Ilokano in their future career.

The disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic stress the need to address health disparities and health inequities for communities, for example, those with limited-English proficiency. The Department of IPLL teaches students who will make up a competent workforce bridging gaps in language access for Hawai'i's multilingual population, and gaps in cultural barriers for the multicultural population. The languages in IPLL have been historically marginalized. However, UH is in a unique position to boast these language resources, which is why the reorganization of the Department of IPLL and Philippine Languages and Literatures program should shift towards greater investment to serve the multicultural community in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Danny Santos Domingo, Jr.



BOR Testimony for Agenda Item VI.A, Report on Academic and Student Affairs

Derrick Higginbotham <deh2@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:30 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: L Saraswati <luhp@hawaii.edu>

Dear BOR,

I respectfully submit the attached testimony, tied to Agenda Item VI.A, the Report on Academic and Student Affairs.

Thanks for the work that you do.

With best wishes,
Derrick

--

Derrick Higginbotham (he/him/his)
Department of English
Associate Professor of Medieval/Early Modern Literature
Affiliate of the Women's Studies Department
Affiliate of the International Cultural Studies Program
Co-Director of <https://oecologies.com/>
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
deh2@hawaii.edu

 **BOR.Letter.Sept2020.pdf**
118K



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MĀNOA

September 16, 2020

Dear Board of Regents,

My name is Derrick Higginbotham, and I am an Associate Professor in the Department of English at UHM, specializing in early modern studies (Shakespeare, in particular) and the history of gender and sexuality. I am affiliate of the Women's Studies Department, and I have taught and worked with students and faculty in that Department, as well as in the Department of Theater and Dance. My primary theoretical framework for my research is a combination of feminist and queer theories, so Women's Studies in my time as a student at other institutions and faculty member here has been a vital intellectual 'home.'

Overall, I write today to express my deep concern about the UH Manoa Plans for a post-pandemic Hawai'i. Like many, I have read through the Budget Committee Suggestions, and I am quite alarmed not only at the suggestions but also at the lack of process in arriving at these suggestions.

I do have questions about the suggestions specific to Women's Studies. In particular, how would working with Interdisciplinary Studies result in an increase in majors for the department? How also would it contribute to cost-cutting? Furthermore, Women's Studies undergraduate enrollment has remained, as the Suggestions document details, steady, with only slight decreases at the graduate level. This steadiness indicates not only that the program thrives, but that the department appears poised to grow, especially with new faculty and affiliates who teach in the fields of gender and sexuality studies. I am not fully convinced that a partnership with Interdisciplinary Studies is either beneficial or necessary.

My strongest concern, though, is that apparently Interdisciplinary Studies and Women's Studies were never consulted about this possible partnership, with no discussions or exploration of what would be beneficial about this collaboration or how it would work in practice. I am very alarmed that the Suggestions are offered without any input from students and faculty generally; this seeming unwillingness to engage with students and faculty appears a part of a pattern of the university administration, one bolstered by the claim to exigency of the moment. While I appreciate and understand that the university will have to change, I am not convinced that doing so unilaterally is the best move.

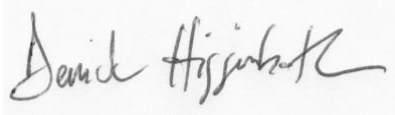
Moreover, using this fall semester (at the very least) to consult does not seem unreasonable or

Department of English
1733 Donaghho Road Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7619 Fax: (808) 956-3083
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

'too slow,' especially when state and federal budgets are not fully developed and so much about this moment remains uncertain. Indeed, I find it disturbing that the administration would initiate such substantial institutional transformation without consultation and during an unprecedented moment as the pandemic continues, as economic dislocation has yet to be fully experienced, and as uprisings are occurring across the US, all during a turbulent election year. I am not fully sure why the administration would want to increase stress amongst students and faculty during an already difficult period.

In light of all of this, I respectfully request that the administration pause the pursuit of any suggested changes to the Women's Studies Department until some kind of consultation process has been completed with students and faculty, and I would ask the same for the Departments of Ethnic Studies and the Departments of Theater and Dance as well as any other programs in the university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Derrick Higginbotham" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Dr. Derrick Higginbotham
Associate Professor of English



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Jonathan Ibanez

Jonathan Ibanez <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:58 AM

Reply-To: jibanez8@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Jonathan Ibanez
Email	jibanez8@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Alumni
Phone Number	(808) 2982544
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

It is unfortunate and untimely that the proposition to remove the Dept of IPLL is being considered for elimination by administration, especially given that the university has been largely supportive of Filipino and other ethnic minorities in our community. The decision to eliminate this department threatens to eliminate an important connection with the Filipino community in Hawaii who contribute both culturally and monetarily to the university. The dept of IPLL is also uniquely positioned to educate students both Filipino and non-Filipino at the university and the loss of a touchstone to Philippine culture for these students will result in the loss of a sense of cultural identity at a key formative time in their lives. I therefore urge the provost, the board of

9/16/2020

University of Hawaii Mail - In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Jonathan Ibanez

regents, and all involved parties to support the Dept of
IPLL and remove the department from any further
consideration of elimination.

Signature



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.

Kelsi Julian-Araki <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:01 AM

Reply-To: kelsija@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 Kelsi Julian-Araki
 Email kelsija@hawaii.edu
 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: Stop targeting arts as a way to justify budget cuts. Do better than cutting what you consider the "lesser" majors.

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:

Kelsi Julian-Araki

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.

Megan Kaestner <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 4:41 AM

Reply-To: Megmurp.mm@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 Megan Kaestner
 Email Megmurp.mm@gmail.com
 Phone Number (419) 2159349
 Date 09-16-2020
 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: My sister graduated from here and has introduced dance to hundreds of students. I've also visited and it's too beautiful of a program to cut.

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: Megan Kaestner
I am a UH Manoa: Supporter
Address City: Perrysburg
State / Province: OH
Country: United States

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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Written Testimony in Support of Ethnic Studies

Kekuewa Kikiloi <kikiloi@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 2:32 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Ty Tengan <ttengan@hawaii.edu>, Davianna McGregor <davianna@hawaii.edu>

Aloha University of Hawaii Regents,

I am submitting this written testimony of support for the Ethnic Studies Department at UH Manoa campus. We believe their department should have full support of the UH administration and should have the right to exist as their own academic unit and program. My testimony is attached.

Mahalo,
Kekuewa Kikiloi

--

Kekuewa Kikiloi, Ph.D.
Director & Associate Professor
Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
University of Hawaiʻi at [Mānoa](#)
[2645 Dole Street Honolulu HI 96822](#)
kikiloi@hawaii.edu - office: 808-956-0558

**KCHS Ethnic Studies Support Letter 091620.pdf**

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September 16, 2020

Aloha Regents of the University of Hawaiʻi,

The Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies stands in solidarity with the Ethnic Studies Department in advocating for the protection of their program. We demand that the University of Hawaiʻi Administration permanently withdraw any proposals of a “stop-out” and allow their department to continue to teach and develop students in their own academic unit. Ethnic studies come from a long and proud history of social and political activism that has helped shape the culture of our University and the history of Hawaiʻi. The inception of their program was born out of the civil rights and anti-war and student movement and its creation was an important benchmark for our University in recognizing the lack Native Hawaiians and locals in UH teaching and administrative position, as well as representation in the standard curriculum and courses here.

Over the years, both of our departments have been historically linked together as allies through early activism such as community resistance movements against local and Hawaiian evictions and the early formations of the Hawaiian sovereignty movement. Ethnic Studies has had tremendous impact in Hawaiʻi in fighting for social justice, peace, and equality for local communities throughout our islands. Just as Hawaiian culture and history is essential to the identity of Hawaii, so too is Ethnic Studies that represents the voices of the multi-ethnic composition that makes up the local culture and base of Hawaiʻi’s population.

In today’s political climate in America that is fueled by racial tension, economic self-interest, and ideological polarization, it’s critical that programs such Ethnic Studies exist, especially here in Hawaiʻi the most ethnically diverse state in the union. Any action that results in the reduction of support or cutting of this program in this day and age can only be seen as an act of institutional racism. We insist that the UH administration stop and listen to the faculty, staff, and students and include us in the planning for these economic challenges in the upcoming years, in order to establish trust and pono in our institution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kekuewa Kikilo'i'.

Kekuewa Kikilo'i, Ph.D.
Director, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa



Testimony – UH Manoa Reorg., Graduate Program in Microbiology

Marek Kirs <kirs@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:23 AM

September 15, 2020

Re: Testimony – UH Manoa Reorg., Graduate Program in Microbiology

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I'm an Associate Researcher in the Water Resource Research Center at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa. I'm writing this testimony because I'm shocked by the proposal to stop-out the MS and PhD programs in the Department of Microbiology at UH Manoa. This idea is unreasonable, unjustified, and likely originates from a review panel with very little understanding of the State's research needs and science in general. Unfortunately, I learned about the proposal just today, less than a day before the comments are due to; I apologize if my comments appear somewhat rushed.

Most importantly, I want to emphasize that the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology is crucial for the State's needs; most of the State's microbial water quality experts and laboratory staff, including but not limited to the Department of Health, Board of Water Supply, and the City and County of Honolulu, were trained through UHM's Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in the Department of Microbiology. The Graduate Program in this department has historically played a key role in Hawaii's microbiology needs. Is Hawaii now planning to import this workforce once the graduate program in question closes? How does whoever made this proposal imagine training experts in the microbiology of beach water, drinking water, and wastewater? No other academic unit exists at UHM for this type of training.

Second, any notion that 25% of students leaving or transferring from the Program badly reflects on the Program is just wrong. In my opinion, this reflects positively on the quality of the training offered. I understand that for the BOR the budget matters most, but by serving on graduate committees in different UH Departments I can assure you that the quality and the standards of the students and the faculty in the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology are exceptional when compared to those of many other academic units at the UHM, where microbiology is more likely mingled with 'soft' sciences.

Third, I believe that the Department of Microbiology has been historically mistreated at UHM, and should be provided opportunities to expand and bring in more students. We live in a world dominated by microbes, and our livelihoods and health depends on them. This is a lesson we are just learning the hard way. The Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology has lots to offer in this regard. Basic, pure scientific research today, as always, forms the very foundation upon which environmental and public health problems can be solved. Please remember this.

Therefore, I conclude that this proposal does not benefit Hawaii and certainly does not better serve the students' needs. It is unclear to me how a stop-out, essentially the elimination of the graduate program, will improve efficiency at UHM. I strongly urge you NOT to stop-out the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology.

Sincerely,
Marek Kirs
associate researcher
WRRRC, University of Hawaii
[2540 Dole Street](#), Holmes Hall 283
Honolulu, HI 96822
phone: (808)956-8272

 **Kirs_Testimony.pdf**
59K



September 15, 2020

Re: Testimony – UH Manoa Reorg., Graduate Program in Microbiology

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I'm an Associate Researcher in the Water Resource Research Center at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa. I'm writing this testimony because I'm shocked by the proposal to stop-out the MS and PhD programs in the Department of Microbiology at UH Manoa. This idea is unreasonable, unjustified, and likely originates from a review panel with very little understanding of the State's research needs and science in general. Unfortunately, I learned about the proposal just today, less than a day before the comments are due to; I apologize if my comments appear somewhat rushed.

Most importantly, I want to emphasize that the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology is crucial for the State's needs; most of the State's microbial water quality experts and laboratory staff, including but not limited to the Department of Health, Board of Water Supply, and the City and County of Honolulu, were trained through UHM's Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in the Department of Microbiology. The Graduate Program in this department has historically played a key role in Hawaii's microbiology needs. Is Hawaii now planning to import this workforce once the graduate program in question closes? How does whoever made this proposal imagine training experts in the microbiology of beach water, drinking water, and wastewater? No other academic unit exists at UHM for this type of training.

Second, any notion that 25% of students leaving or transferring from the Program badly reflects on the Program is just wrong. In my opinion, this reflects positively on the quality of the training offered. I understand that for the BOR the budget matters most, but by serving on graduate committees in different UH Departments I can assure you that the quality and the standards of the students and the faculty in the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology are



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exceptional when compared to those of many other academic units at the UHM, where microbiology is more likely mingled with 'soft' sciences.

Third, I believe that the Department of Microbiology has been historically mistreated at UHM, and should be provided opportunities to expand and bring in more students. We live in a world dominated by microbes, and our livelihoods and health depends on them. This is a lesson we are just learning the hard way. The Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology has lots to offer in this regard. Basic, pure scientific research today, as always, forms the very foundation upon which environmental and public health problems can be solved. Please remember this.

Therefore, I conclude that this proposal does not benefit Hawaii and certainly does not better serve the students' needs. It is unclear to me how a stop-out, essentially the elimination of the graduate program, will improve efficiency at UHM. I strongly urge you NOT to stop-out the Graduate Program in the Department of Microbiology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MK' followed by a flourish.

Marek Kirs (PhD)
Associate Researcher
WRRC, University of Hawaii
2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall 283
Honolulu HI 96822

Phone: (808)956-8272
Email: kirs@hawaii.edu



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Chris Lee <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:03 AM

Reply-To: chrislee5489@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 Chris Lee
 Email chrislee5489@gmail.com
 Phone Number (507) 469-9807
 Date 09-16-2020
 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:

Save the arts! Dance is a must for Hawaii!!

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:

Chirs Lee

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [115 Belle Ave Mankato](#)

State / Province: MN

Country: United States

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Ethnic Studies

Kerry Long <kerryl@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:09 AM

Ethnic Studies at UHM emerged from a struggle by Hawai'i's people of color to have a department that studies the experiences and social conditions of Hawai'i's people, rather than offering students simply the history of white people in conventional majors. From Ethnic Studies came Hawaiian Studies. It is an institution within the proud history of Hawai'i's oppressed people's fighting for a voice, in this case, in higher education. And it remains as relevant as ever as racial inequality is still a huge problem in Hawai'i and a social paradigm that continues to shape the lives and politics of this place.

Ethnic Studies changes local students' lives. In these times of racial reckoning, to do anything less that invest MORE in Ethnic Studies at UHM and empower the department to grow on its own terms is to entirely ignore the critical importance of what is happening across the US and the world right now as people of color and indigenous people are forcing the world around them to deal with the ongoing impacts of white supremacy and racialized oppression.

The irony is not lost that when a white president of the University is given emergency powers by the Board of Regents that one of the first departments on the chopping block is Ethnic Studies. Ethnic Studies inherently represents a "bottom up" approach to decision making, where those who are impacted most determine the future of their community. The Board of Regents needs to think hard about the impact of their approach - empowering a top down response to the budget crisis that the university faces - empowering an administration that is over-represented by white men to determine the future of Hawai'i's one state university.

Please protect Ethnic Studies and empower students and faculty to have much more say in the future of this university.

Mahalo,
Kerry Long
Faculty, Native Hawaiian Student Services
PhD Student, Political Science

--

[K. 'Ilima Long](#)
[Student Faculty Engagement Specialist](#)
[Native Hawaiian Student Services](#)
[University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#)



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Kerry Long <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:37 AM

Reply-To: kerryl@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 Kerry Long
 Email kerryl@hawaii.edu
 Phone Number (808) 781-8423
 Date 09-16-2020
 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: This whole process has been top down and the tragic result of giving Lassner emergency powers. Please stop this.

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:

Kerry Long

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.



Testimony for BOR Meeting September 17

Skayu Louis <delouis@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:25 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Ethnic Studies Department Chair <eschair@hawaii.edu>

Testimony from Skayu Louis
Sylx Nation
UH Manoa Political Science PhD Program
UH Manoa Anthropology MA Graduate

I am writing to submit testimony relating to the Covid-19 updates. The BMT has identified proposed restructuring that affects many of the departments on campus that elevate social justice into our contemporary and future worlds. I am opposed to the constant targeting of programs like Ethnic Studies, American Studies, and Women's Studies based on financial logics that have yet to be publicized, while decision making is occurring in non-transparent ways.

I am writing to share my experiences with the Ethnic Studies Department. I am a first year PhD student in the Political Sciences Program, and a recent graduate of my Masters in the Anthropology Program at UH Manoa. I am Sylx/Secwepmc/German. I am Native American. There are few spaces on campus to orient my ways of thinking into the structure of the University. There are few spaces on campus where I can feel seen and known. When I first arrived to campus, in my first week I attended an event in the Ethnic Studies Department and was welcomed with a warmth that exists nowhere else on campus. I was welcomed with community, and I was welcomed with an exposure to intellectual reckonings that superseded my expectations of what I was getting myself into when I decided to go back to University. I found a comradely that stuck through my Graduate experience on campus, and helped me through the difficult times that we face as students in our personal lives, and as students faced with struggles that relate to the operative nature of the University itself. This is a space that incorporates new voices into our evolving knowledges. This is a space that is greatly needed by our hegemonic world. This is a space that me and my colleagues, friends, and circles will fight for time and time again. Yet, we are writing to ask you to stop this targeting. We are made aware of the history of Ethnic Studies, as it has had to defend itself as a Department before. We as students are asking for a autonomous space for the University to trust, acknowledge, and value the work that happens within the Ethnic Studies Department. To honour its own values of inclusion, becoming and Indigenous Serving Institution, and to recognize the state of our current world. Steeped in tensions of race, class, gender, Indigeneity, and beyond. These are the conversations needed for tomorrow. The discourse of the Ethnic Studies Department is what is needed for our new economy tomorrow. As an emerging generation of passion and awareness, we are not looking to rebuild the status quo by merely shuffling the numbers to benefit the top. We are asking you to look at the values, the experiences, the community, and the beauty that the Ethnic Studies Department has brought in its 50 years on campus. Come witness this value through the celebrations of the Departments 50th Year Anniversary on Campus this academic year. In this time of Covid-19 lockdown, we are caused to ask ourselves what elements of our lives are important, and what elements of our society are essential. It would not take long for the waves behind the Ethnic Studies Department to share, in a multiplicity of voices, the essential nature of holding these spaces - and holding them consistently and autonomously.

As an inquiring student, I am confounded by the process made evident by the Administration and the MBT. As a student, I demand transparency. As a student who has poured labour and tuition into the operations of campus, I demand to know how these decisions emerged. I demand a deepened inclusion of Ethnic Studies and other impacted Departments regarding the futures of their departments. When partnerships across campus are made, they should make sense. They shouldn't occur in a top down fashion, without any conversation, consultation, or input from the Departments involved. This isn't ethical, and this isn't acceptable. It has not been made evident the ways in which the Ethnic Studies Department working within Interdisciplinary Studies will contribute to cost savings. As participants of this University we see no information regarding these cost savings.

Way' limlept for your time, and I sincerely ask your contemplation on this matter. To look around and witness the waves of racism that Covid-19 has exposed, and groundswell in Black Lives Matter movements, and the Indigenous Communities across Turtle Island that have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. Do we not need a space for the rising voices of these communities? Listen to the voices of concurrent Testimonies relating to the Ethnic Studies Department and consider our shared future.

Skayu

2 attachments

 **Testimony - Louis, Skayu.pages**
463K

 **Testimony - Louis, Skayu.pdf**
29K

Testimony from Skayu Louis
Syilx Nation
UH Manoa Political Science PhD Program
UH Manoa Anthropology MA Graduate

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Skayu



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Acer Marbella

Acer Marbella <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:14 AM

Reply-To: lolo3298@yahoo.com

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislín@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Acer Marbella
Email	lolo3298@yahoo.com
UHM Affiliation	Student
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown

and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai‘i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

Eugene Tunac Marquez <etunac@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:19 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Nadezna Ortega <nadezna@hawaii.edu>, Dean Domingo <deand@hawaii.edu>

Eugene Tunac Marquez (He/Him/His)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

BA Candidate in Political Science

BA Candidate in Philippine Language & Culture - Ilokano



A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration.pdf

105K

A Letter of Testimony in Protest Against the University of Hawai'i Administration's Budget Proposal

My name is Eugene Tunac Marquez, born and raised in the Philippines, a settler immigrant of the currently occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i for eleven years, a queer first-generation student with a senior standing, a candidate in the Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Philippine Language & Culture with a concentration in Ilokano, and I hereby OPPOSE the University of Hawai'i Administration's HIGHLY UNACCEPTABLE proposal of eliminating the BA in Philippine Language and Culture.

Upon my admittance to the University, I have never imagined myself to take part in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, let alone major in Ilokano, my native language. However, I am forever grateful to have the opportunity to participate and be a part of the program because of its prominent contributions to my own personal, academic, and political growth and development.

With the knowledge and insight that I gained whilst in the program, I realized how despite making up approximately 25% of Hawai'i's population, Filipinos are amongst the highly disadvantaged communities on the islands. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the Filipino community is an essential example. Recent data reveals that Filipinos and Pacific Islanders have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they make up a large number of what is deemed "essential workers". Furthermore, the Filipino community is overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry.

Being in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program not only allowed me to maintain my proficiency in my language and maintain my connection to my heritage, having been away from my homeland for numerous years, it also helped me learn about the failures of the current colonial capitalist systems that we are forced under. Cutting down the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and the program as a whole will not support the lives of the Filipino community and the sacrifices and struggles they had to endure. They will only contribute to the ongoing lack of support for the community.

Additionally, the elimination of the BA in Philippine Languages and Culture will not save the University money. The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program has been consistent with its growth in terms of majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment in many of the classes. The classes offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and FOCUS requirements of the University. Every semester, there is often an amazing number of students waitlisting for the classes, but the program is unable to offer seats because the program is not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. With a firm statistic showing the strength of the number of tuition-paying students taking its courses, the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program is not what the administration calls a "cost center".

The University of Hawai'i Administration seems to be masking their true agenda behind the financial impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on the University. If the University's goal is to "enhance opportunities for program and revenue growth," then why is the administration cutting down some of the most socially crucial programs in the University? In addition to my growth and development in the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, I have had the honor to take part in the Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies programs as well and gained numerous profound insights under these programs. The Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies departments struggled to establish their autonomies under the oppressive colonial capitalist systems in our society, but they have since become hubs of fostering the political awakenings in many students. Cutting these programs down, along with the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program and other cultural programs, rightly exposes the administration's continuing agenda to mute our voices, misappropriate our identities, steal our resources, and hiding behind their performative rhetoric.

Instead of eliminating and cutting down these programs, I question why haven't the University of Hawai'i Administration consider cutting their pays, since many of the administrators earn way over \$250,000 and it is a highly reasonable measure that other universities are implementing in their pandemic response plans, and/or stop proposing a salary increase for multiple administrative positions which they will be doing during the BOR meeting on Thursday September 17, 2020.

I am appalled, but not surprised, by the administration's decision to continue muting the voices of the people and cutting these programs will only be a part of the many evidence that reveal their agenda. I urge the University of Hawai'i Administration to stop using the pandemic as their reasonings in planning to dissolve these programs and tell us the real reasons why. Why is the administration damaging the strength of programs that are crucially important to the social and cultural growth of the University's students?

I look forward to the University of Hawai'i Administration's immediate withdrawal of these proposed cuts and to hearing their plans to preserve these programs and their responsibility to serve the community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Tunac Marquez', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word 'Regards,'.

Eugene Tunac Marquez



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Eugene Marquez

Eugene Marquez <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:05 AM

Reply-To: etunac@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Eugene Marquez
Email	etunac@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 7825371
Date	09-15-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

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Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

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Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Hana Maruyama

Hana Maruyama <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:44 AM

Reply-To: hcmaruyama19@gmail.com

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislin@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Hana Maruyama
Email	hcmaruyama19@gmail.com
UHM Affiliation	Supporter
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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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Signature



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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAI'I
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

SAVE DANCE AT UH

Mason <masonaremaley@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:23 AM

To: 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, wessendo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.ed

SAVE DANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Re: COVID-19 and Budget & Finance Report

Ashley Maynard <amaynard@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:28 AM

Dear Regents,

Please accept the attached personal testimony.

Sincerely yours,
Ashley Maynard

--

Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Hawaii
Dept. of Psychology
[2530 Dole Street](#), Sakamaki C-400
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-956-7343
Fax: 808-956-4700

"The university of the faculty, for the students, by the administration." --Former UH President Al Simone

 **Maynard BOR Testimony September 2020.pdf**
96K

Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D.
Honolulu, HI 96822
amaynard@hawaii.edu

September 15, 2020

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
Bachman Hall
bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear Regents,

I am writing this personal testimony in my role as a tenured senior faculty member at UH Mānoa. Please interpret my testimony in light of that role and not any other I may hold. I love this university, and I value education. Education changed my life, and I have dedicated my life to educating others because of its power to change lives. We all want UH Mānoa to do well. Instead, the current state is chaos.

How Did This Chaos Evolve?

On August 20, 2020, you passed Resolution 20-03, ordering your administration to “work with faculty, students, and staff to seek the broadest possible consensus for the greater good in order to maintain the integrity and continued functioning of the University.” The very first thing the administration did was to defy your order, also defying the contract (*UHPA-BOR 2017-2021 Agreement*) that you have signed.

Here is a snapshot of what happened: A secret committee communicated anonymous suggestions to deans. Deans then reported to chairs, sometimes only verbally, what things would be changed, and that it was a “done deal.” Deans ordered chairs to defend the futures of their departments in four days, in the second week of classes. Deans ordered chairs and other faculty not to talk to anyone else. Deans said things like, “If you don’t like it, you’re not a team player.” At least one chair is in collusion with a senior administrator, knowingly or not, against the wishes of a significant number of faculty in the department. Those faculty and many others feel as if they have no voice in this process. This was the rollout of the current budget process at the flagship university in the State of Hawaii. No wonder chaos ensued.

This is not what you ordered, and it should not be what you expect of your managers. Everything that has been done so far in the so-called “budget process” for a “post-pandemic Hawaii” must be rescinded and called back because it was in defiance of your orders and it has not followed the UHPA-BOR contract or the law. Furthermore, it is an exercise with doubtful financial outcomes, if any.

Was the administration’s defiance of your orders based on ignorance or was it intentional?

There are numerous people who work in your university who know the rules and processes and can help your administration do the right thing. Either those people were not consulted or they were ignored. Either way this effort, headed by President Lassner and Provost Bruno, violates your orders in Resolution 20-03. This is why you are hearing panic from hundreds of people.

We need you to bring order to the situation by ordering that the current process be rescinded and demanding a correct process.

The president may tell you he can get it on track and he can fix it. The question is not whether he can fix it. The question is why did he defy your orders in the first place? Only *after* hundreds of people get so worked up and mount powerful displays of solidarity in defense of the university, the president tells you he can fix it. Is he or is he not talking to his experts on how this process should go? Is *this* the person to oversee the biggest transition at UH since the 1960s? These are questions you need to ask yourselves.

What Should Be Done Instead?

The president must start by talking with the consigned bodies named in the contract that you signed, namely UHPA and the Mānoa Faculty Senate. These structures are named in the UHPA-BOR contract for situations such as this (see Reference Section 20) precisely because these are the structures that represent the faculty. All of us will be better off working through these existing, contractual structures, including the administrators you direct.

Importantly, there are administrators here who have been through this process--correctly done--in 2009-2010. Why do those administrators not remember or call on that experience? I urge you to find out who was in that group (*Chancellor Hinshaw's Budget Prioritization Process*). I was in that group, and it worked reasonably well. There was absolutely no chaos. Take a look and see who is still here now and ask yourself if they can handle this process at this time.

Who has the big picture in mind here? It is certainly not the ones in management whom you expect to have the big picture. Rather, you will read in the testimony that it is the faculty who have the big picture in mind. The faculty understand that Mānoa is likely facing a budget shortfall. Everybody is aware of the scale of the problem. But this chaos hurts. It is not helping to solve the problem. Faculty are spending hundreds if not thousands of hours, collectively, to push back against a sham process that has defied your orders.

As of 8 a.m. the morning of September 16, 2020, the administration has presented no clear budget process that we can look to know and know what the steps are. There are no aims or goals. There are no criteria laid out in a process that guarantees anybody will be correctly heard. Administration tried to run a secret process behind closed doors. In the academy? What were they thinking? I think they wanted to handle this quickly and tell you everything is on track. Read the testimony and listen to the faculty, and you will see that it is way off track.

When a correct process is followed using the structures that are in place under the law, all faculty, staff, and students will be able to be heard and give input. And this will happen without chaos breaking out. There will be a timeline. There will be aims, goals, data, a method, criteria, and savings connected to each proposed change, none of which we have now. Many faculty, including me, are empiricists: We expect there to be a clear method with data and results that we can examine in light of the method and determine whether we would draw the same or different conclusions, or whether we would propose to look at different data or define a new method.

We also expect to know if the outcomes and sacrifices would be worth it. The number one question I hear from faculty is about savings: “What will all this save?” “What will each change save?” If this is meant to solve the budget problem, those are indeed reasonable questions. When pressed for the savings on September 11, 2020, the Mānoa provost told department chairs that we don’t have that information because “it would waste a lot of busy people’s time” to figure that out. That means we could make all the changes and not know if it solved the problem. This is not only derelict, it is heartless. What you are asking faculty to do, via your administration, is to consider giving up their livelihoods and their ability to take care of people they care about. In the end this is not some abstract exercise: This is about people. And the ultimate outcome of a lot of these plans has a good chance of leaving some people out of work. We understand that there is a budget crisis, and we can help work to solve it. But it is not right to ask us to consider moves that may result in the cutting of programs, sacrificing the careers of faculty members, and sacrificing the dreams of students, without making sure that their sacrifice would solve the problem. To pretend that this exercise of program cutting is not for budget reasons, when it has already been stated that it is, and to refuse to attempt to figure out whether this chaotic exercise would even solve the budget problem is, in a word, irresponsible.

You will hear faculty talk about their programs as well as about what a research university is and should be for our community. A research university is meant to lift society as a whole, and over time, it does. It is community colleges that tend to focus on workforce education. People come to a research university to develop some skills that will aid them in the workforce, in part, but also to become people who can solve problems that don’t yet exist. We are going to need thinkers in society who can solve problems and respond to future needs, and a research university is the only engine for that because we provide the kind of education that teaches people to think critically and creatively, not just to make tools or resolve current issues. Once those tools become obsolete, so might the toolmaker; but if that toolmaker has the ability to think about theory and to put a new problem in the context of past, present, and future, then we have someone who can design tools of the future.

I want to take a moment to memorialize the significance of what we are experiencing as a campus. Faculty are coming together like they haven’t in a long time. You should be made happy by the solidarity and passion shown in defense of the university whose parts cannot be meaningfully considered as separate and easily dispensable. Many people are submitting testimony who never knew they would need to. They never knew how much we needed each other. There was a connectedness that we took for granted that is now made obvious by the voices being raised in defense of the university we love.

The faculty are ready to work together and with the students, staff, and administration to find a way forward. We understand the university as a whole. I am certain that more minds are better than fewer. I am certain that the structures put in place and that you are signed on to will be more reliable than the ad hoc process engaged in thus far. That is why so many faculty are writing to you. I therefore ask you to please order your administration to rescind the process that has been conducted thus far. In particular, please ensure they follow the contract and the law.

Sincerely yours,
Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
UH Mānoa



Testimony for BOR meeting

Laurel Mei-Singh <meisingh@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:13 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: "eschair@hawaii.edu Department Chair" <eschair@hawaii.edu>, Michael Bruno <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, David Lassner <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>

Dear Board of Regents,

I'm writing to vocalize my unwavering support for Ethnic Studies, as I was hired in this department and moved home to take this position in 2018.

I was born and raised in Honolulu, and after I went away to college, it became my goal to return to Hawai'i. Soon after college, I learned about the department of Ethnic Studies and their work since the 1970s for racial, economic, environmental, and gender justice and knew that it was the place where I wanted to work. After I started my doctoral program in NYC, when I visited home, I eagerly made appointments with Ethnic Studies faculty so that we could get to know each other and even called faculty members in the department a few times from New York when I had research-related questions about Hawai'i. In 2014, I moved back to conduct my dissertation research and began to work with Ethnic Studies as a lecturer. This is when I became even more set in my goal to become a full-time faculty of Ethnic Studies at UHM. In 2017, as I was serving a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton, I jumped on the opportunity to apply for a job as part of the sustainability cluster hire in the Social Sciences at UHM, and was thrilled to see that Ethnic Studies was part of the cluster. When I got the job, it was a dream come true.

However, recent weeks have found Ethnic Studies and my future here in danger. More troubling, it has made me question UH's commitment to social justice as a core principle of education. I am writing to ask that the Board of Regents make social and racial justice a **priority** as we move into our post-COVID future. This is even more important as we see the racial disparities in COVID rates and economic impacts from the pandemic, and the recent uprisings against institutionalized racism. At this moment, UH admin should be partnering with ES and engaging in meaningful dialogue about how to support and strengthen us during this time of racial reckoning.

Ethnic Studies and other affected departments must participate in a process where we decide the sort of partnerships that make sense for us. As it stands, I do not see meaningful cost-savings of any sort of partnership with IS. I have also been informed that IS has not been consulted about this partnership. I would like to request transparency, accountability, and meaningful dialogue in this process.

I also want to vocalize my solidarity with other departments affected by the reorganization and cuts. This includes Theater, Dance, American Studies, Women's Studies, CPIS, Asian Studies, and more. It is more important now than ever to celebrate and support the arts, culture, critical thinking, activism and social movements, and diversity. UHM is not a trade school. People with liberal arts, humanities, and social science degrees in fact earn higher salaries on the job market over time because they've developed creative and critical thinking as well as writing skills that enable them to fill leadership positions. The decision to scale back on these programs is short-sighted and counterproductive.

I look forward to meaningful dialogue about how we can move forward together.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Laurel Mei-Singh
Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies
University of Hawai'i Mānoa



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Laurel Mei-Singh Mei-Singh

Laurel Mei-Singh Mei-Singh <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:22 AM

Reply-To: meisingh@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Laurel Mei-Singh Mei-Singh
Email	meisingh@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Faculty
Phone Number	(808) 3881383
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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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Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Jeraldine Joy Milla

Jeraldine Joy Milla <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:53 AM

Reply-To: millaje@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name: Jeraldine Joy Milla
 Email: millaje@hawaii.edu
 UHM Affiliation: Student
 Date: 09-16-2020
 Letter Heading: To:
 UHM President, David 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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Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPL. The program has grown

and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai‘i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

Cutting budgets on such classes will not the University, rather, the University should set their priorities in maintaining the tradition and cut down expenses on unnecessary spending of budget on creating facilities that not all student body would benefit from. The University must preserve its tradition so does its classes that make the university valuable among the rest.

I think budgets must be provided on education rather nonessential projects or building that does not benefit everyone.

Signature



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.

Penny Murphy <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:23 AM

Reply-To: pem29@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, 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	Penny Murphy
Email	pem29@aol.com
Phone Number	(419) 944-1903
Date	09-16-2020
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:

My daughter graduated in 2003 with a Master's Degree in Dance from your University. She has a successful career as an Instructor of the Bowling Green State University's Dance program. She also is the owner of her own dance studio, and is very successful bringing dance to the community in Bowling Green, Ohio. Not only is she encouraging young children in the arts, she provides

employment to her dance students from BGSU. It is important to continue these opportunities for your current and future students. By cutting dance from your program, you are taking away many opportunities for not only dance students, but for outreach in your community and other communities where your dance students are from. Please reconsider this decision. Thank you very much.

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:

Penny Murphy

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Perrysburg

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.

Amy Neils <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:37 AM

Reply-To: amyneils@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	Amy Neils
Email	amyneils@gmail.com
Phone Number	(507) 9951964
Date	09-16-2020
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:

It's very important to keep this program around. Many students will suffer, now and in the future. The Arts are crucial to all parts of society and culture. Please keep all the Arts programs now and in 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."

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:

Amy Neils

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [725 Lyndale Street](#)

State / Province: North Mankato, Minnesota

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.

Dylan Neils <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:21 AM

Reply-To: dneils11@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, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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

Name Dylan Neils
 Email dneils11@hotmail.com
 Phone Number (507) 3807657
 Date 09-16-2020
 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:

Why would you want to get rid of the programs that differentiate yourself from every other college and university in the country? You don't hear about Hula or Polynesian dance being taught as anything more than an elective or one semester class anywhere else, so this is really the only place that people who want to learn this in depth can learn this. You are killing off a style of dance

and a culture that you can't find anywhere else, or you would have to leave the country to do. The programs may be small, but the people who are in them are there specifically for them and couldn't go anywhere else to do them. You are turning your backs on the culture and heritage of Hawaii by throwing away these programs that show the essence of Hawaii and its people.

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:

Dylan Neils

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Richmond Heights
State / Province: Missouri
Country: United States

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



Testimony Against the Post-Pandemic Hawai'i Budget Cuts for the Women's Studies Department

Candace Noguchi <cynoguch@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 4:23 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: luhp@hawaii.edu

Letter of Testimony Opposing the Proposed Budget Cuts in the Plans for Post-Pandemic Hawai'i

Aloha members of the Board of Regents at the University of Hawai'i,

My name is Yu Noguchi and I am a fourth-year student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a B.A. Candidate in Psychology and Women's Studies, minoring in Japanese, and also obtaining an Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies, I am writing this letter to express my appall and overall disgust over the proposal submitted by the Mānoa Budget Team on Friday, September 11, 2020.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed "partnership" of the Women's Studies department with the Interdisciplinary Studies department.

As a queer, nonbinary, Japanese immigrant-settler, first generation student living on militarily occupied lands in the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the Women's Studies department is one of the only places on campus where I felt safe, seen, and affirmed of my intersecting identities. It is the *only* department on campus that has taught me to critically analyze the systems of injustice and oppression in the world that we live in; the same systems of oppression in which the university chooses to maintain through this proposal. While I have only been a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for one year, my experience at the university, especially during this pandemic, has consistently proven to me that you only care about fattening your own wallets through the expense of student lives and livelihood.

Whilst only having four full-time faculty members, the Women's Studies department is a thriving, functional, and *effective* academic department. The enrollment and graduation numbers have remained stable over the years, providing invaluable education and service to its students and our local community. Historically, the Women's Studies department was a part of the Interdisciplinary Studies department just as the proposal suggests. However, this past "partnership" did not work. Frankly, the suggestion made by the Mānoa Budget Team is *unnecessary and unwarranted*. The Women's Studies department is a valuable, distinguished, and crucial part of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa system. Therefore, it is important for the Women's Studies department to remain autonomous to continue providing its vital services as it has done over the years.

In a different report released on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020 that listed designated small programs at UHM, the Women's Studies department *was not* listed on this report. Furthermore, the budget proposal does NOT state how these suggestions aim to solve UHM's "financial crisis". Nor does it explain how these suggestions will result in increased student admission towards these programs. As such, the proposed changes to the Women's Studies department can only be seen as a direct attack on the department itself and the messages that it stands for.

The programs that are being suggested to be dissolved/merged/and/or cut are all programs centering on the lives and experiences of Native Hawaiian, Indigenous, Black, People of Color, women, LGBTQ+,

immigrant, disabled, neurodiverse communities. As such, this proposal can be called nothing but colonialist, capitalistic, Anti-Black, Anti-Indigenous, racist, white supremacist, ableist, homo/transphobic, and neoliberalism. Calling the university, a “Hawaiian Place of Learning” while also simultaneously proposing cuts and elimination of these programs is hypocrisy. It is a direct contradiction to a university that supposedly values social justice, diversity, creativity, and innovation.

The Women’s Studies department along with other departments such as the Ethnic Studies, Dance, Theatre, Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature, Art, American Studies, etc. have *always* faced unjust threats of budget cuts by the administration throughout the years. A simple look at the proposal shows a lack of evidence and justifications for the actions suggested. The COVID-19 pandemic provided the perfect opportunity for the administration to cut the programs that have been their most vocal critics through the guise of an imminent “financial crisis”. This blatant grab for power is just another neoliberalism tactic to further marginalize and silence the voices of the oppressed while also capitalizing on our lives, identity, and culture.

As a student whose tuition pays your salary, I DEMAND;

Removal of the Women’s Studies, in addition to *all other departments*, from the Post-COVID initiative of budget cuts.

For explanations on why a budget team is making these decisions for academic departments, along with the justification of these initial proposals.

Full transparency by the higher administration to the faculty and students for any and all changes being made in the university.

Inclusion of students, faculty, and community members in the decision-making process regarding a Post-Pandemic Hawai‘i.

Reevaluation of the excessive salary income of all individuals within the higher administration, including the Board of Regents, during a pandemic when the university supposedly cannot pay their essential workers and provide graduate students PTO, sick leave, livable income, etc.

I look forward to the swift removal of the proposed budget cuts, the creation of a community engaged action plan, and for the university to maintain accountability towards the community that it serves.

Mahalo,
Yu Noguch

Yu Noguchi (they/them/theirs)
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
B.A. Candidate in Psychology & Women's Studies



Letter of Testimony Opposing the Proposed Budget Cuts for Post-Pandemic Hawai'i.pdf

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Mahalo,



Yu Noguch



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Vea Marie Oliver

Vea Marie Oliver <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:48 AM

Reply-To: voliver@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Vea Marie Oliver
Email	voliver@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 6700469
Date	07-15-2001
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

As someone who moved from the Philippines to a new country, I have felt a heavy guilt, and frankly, shame, for how foreign my own culture and language has felt over the years. Since my high school did not offer any classes about my culture, I was ecstatic to get into college, particularly UH Manoa because of their great and highly respected Filipino program. I have only taken one course since I started studying here, and already, I have learned so much. Not only about technicalities, or things I could read about, instead, I started to learn more about individual experiences of my fellow Filipinos especially immigrants. UH Manoa prides itself for diversity, yet keeps threatening the removal of ethnic studies such as Philippine Language and Literature. These programs,

whether we deny it or not, is the foundation of “diversity” in the University. It is what draws people, and let them stay. The Philippine Language and Literature has opened their doors to not only Filipinos but to those who want to learn more about the culture. It is a place where you could belong to no matter what or where you are from. Taking this away would undermine the University’s diversity advocacies. We expect better than this.

Signature



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Responding to the REORG of CALL

Nadezna Ortega <nadezna@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:04 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

The University of Hawai'i is proposing to "stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture" and reorganize the entire Dept. of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL) with its small language courses into a non-degree granting "Center." While the Deans of the College of Arts, Languages and Letters do not seem to agree with this proposal, the BA program in **Philippine Languages and Literatures** and the IPLL language programs are still at risk.

This top-down strategy of cost-cutting by the University is institutional racism. Cutting our BA program, getting rid of our entire department, and other similar measures of cutting "smaller" programs across the university is unacceptable. The burden of these cost cutting measures is not applied evenly. The majority of the programs being cut are programs that have the most faculty and students who are disadvantaged minorities and women. The knowledges and perspectives inculcated in these programs are undervalued in our society.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Sincerely,
Nadezna Ortega

Agyamanak unay!
Nadezna Ortega, J.D., M.A.
PhD Student, Department of Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Instructor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Ilokano Language and Literature Program

"If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together" - Aboriginal activist group, Queensland

"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own" - Audre Lorde



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

dance at Hawaii

Caroline Ostrander <artandcarrieo@yahoo.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 3:26 AM

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

Dear Fellow Educators,

Over the past two decades I have enjoyed the performances of the Dance Department at the University of Hawaii repeatedly. I value the arts in all its forms: music, art, literature, theater, and dance to name a few. The arts is what keeps us compassed, keeps us focused on beauty, tunes us to be better people.

I am from New York. I only wish that New Yorkers could see that the dance department personifies multiculturalism.

Most schools toss out an individual program, or maybe a month of the year designated to study the same heroes. These are not bad things to do, however after I attended my first UH dance concert I saw in living color the vastness and diversity that only Hawaii can provide. There is no other place in all of the 50 United States that is such a "slice of the world." Dance is an incredible vehicle for showing that Hawaii has an outlook like no others and can bring it to masses of people.

Please keep this precious gem of a department intact. Keep it financially healthy enough to be viable and attract talent from all around the world as it does now. It doesn't present to be a huge department; it's a small gem.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ostrander, ret.

37 year public school teacher

Dr. Arthur Ostrander, ret. Dean of the School of Music, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY



Proposal to eliminate the German BA

Maryann Overstreet <overst@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:35 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

As you know, the German BA program is currently being targeted, along with a number of "small" programs, for possible elimination. Like many programs across campus, the German BA has been targeted without consulting the faculty and based on data that the administration has characterized as possibly outdated or inaccurate. The administration has also proposed moving German into Interdisciplinary Studies without any justification, other than it appears that this is the new location for miscellaneous programs that are being targeted for downsizing and elimination. Remarkably, there has been no explanation offered for how these plans would save the university any money or strengthen any programs. I'm writing to ask you to reject these unwarranted and ill-conceived recommendations regarding the German BA, which, if implemented, would be detrimental to our university, weakening our institution and depriving local students of a wide range of opportunities.

In a little over a week, over 750 individuals have expressed their objection to this proposal by signing petitions to save the German BA at UH Mānoa. As you can see, these include a wide range of UH faculty (including many from diverse areas of STEM, the Humanities, Sociology, Music, Arts, etc.), current and former students, and members of all areas of the community (including Consuls, a Major General, and prominent members of the Hawaiian community):

[UH Faculty Petition to Save German BA](#)

[Student and Community Petition to Save German BA](#)

We have been informed in general terms that the decision to target the German BA was based on 'qualitative and quantitative considerations'. In fact, the German BA has been growing steadily over the past decade. At one point recently, the program had more graduates than some larger programs within its department. The excellent quality of the German BA program is demonstrated by high retention rates and excellent student exit surveys, data which were obviously not considered by those making the recommendations.

However, you do not need to take my word on this. The Honorary Consul of Germany in Hawai'i, Denis Salle, recently wrote a letter to President David Lassner, Provost Michael Bruno and Dean Peter Arnade stating the following:

"As the representative of the German Foreign Office in Hawai'i, I should point out the many reasons why offering in-depth education in German language and culture is part of the basic fabric of a quality University system, given its heritage in all aspects of science, arts and literature. But just as important is the fact that the UH German BA program is run by a small team of highly motivated academics, who have demonstrated the ability to produce quality education, while maintaining and increasing their numbers of annual graduates. I can personally attest to a very intact and collaborative body of students of German, who are enthusiastic about the many opportunities that this program opens up for them. The UH German program has various partner Universities in Germany for international exchange options, they facilitate the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for the State of Hawai'i, have sent students as apprentices to the German Bundestag, and managed to engage students in many other mind-expanding activities with German serving as the key component."

In fact, the German faculty are constantly updating and improving course offerings to keep the program current, and respond to student demand. Most recently, we have been adding exciting new lower-division courses in English at the introductory level which will reach a broad student population, for example: LLEA 147: Death and Dying in Literature and Film, which focuses on the works of many German authors and filmmakers, being taught for the first time this semester, which and a 200-level course on Germanic Myth and Legends currently under review, which promise to draw large numbers and significantly increase our SSH. These courses will also count toward the German BA. Another popular course that is taught by our faculty (LLEA 371: Europeans of the Pacific) will be opened to larger numbers of students, as well. Our faculty are also exploring ways to work across programs and collaborate with other departments to offer cross-listed courses as a means of further increasing enrollments.

Returning to the importance of maintaining the German BA, the Honorary Consul of Germany in Hawai'i, Denis Salle also noted the following with regard to the relevance of in-depth study of German in his letter to our administrators:

"German at UH Mānoa has relevance to many fields of undergraduate and graduate study and the BA program directly benefits our local undergraduate students. Proficiency in German is a core asset in various professional fields especially when targeting jobs in the Asian market, where German companies have a strong presence in manufacturing, R&D and trade. In fact, an MIT study found proficiency in German to have a positive net effect on earnings of several percent: (www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2014/03/language-study). For an increasing number of students, the option of a free post-graduate degree in Germany becomes an attractive alternative, especially because they can obtain the degree almost free of charge."

In further support of the argument to maintain the BA of German at UH Mānoa, please also consider that:

German is considered to be a heritage language in the islands based on its influence since the mid 1800s, when German explorers and businessmen began to arrive here:

- * Over a thousand German sugar plantation workers arrived in the islands in the early 1880s, not long after the Chinese, and just before the Japanese. Intermarriages were common.
- * German was one of just two foreign languages offered when our university was first opened in 1908 (the other was French).
- * Princess Ka'uiulani was sent to Germany to perfect her German, and Queen Lili'uokalani took German lessons in I'olani Palace. In O'ahu cemetery, the gravestones are carved in three languages: English, Hawaiian and German. Several roads in Honolulu and Oahu are named after Germans (Isenberg, Spreckels)
- * German influences are still remarkably visible within the remnants of the Hawaiian Monarchy, Hawaiian Music (Henry Berger composed with Queen Liliuokalani and defined the Royal Hawaiian Band), Uniforms and Architecture.

German provides a direct link to Pacific Scholarship:

- * Some of the most important works on Hawai'i, Sāmoa, Tonga, the Marshall Islands, and Papua New Guinea were written in German.
- * The Hawai'i-Pacific collection in Hamilton Library houses an abundance of original work in German that has yet to be translated, including works by ethnologists, naturalists, linguists, poets, painters, as well as "local" Germans who ran German colonies.

The German program works with the local community:

- * Over the past eight years, the German faculty has worked with the Honorary Consul of Germany and the Goethe Institut to co-organize the annual Berlin and Beyond Film Festival, featuring German, Austrian and Swiss productions in German language, sponsored by BMW and supported in person by students of the German BA program.
- * Some of the German faculty are also members of of the German Benevolent Society of Honolulu (est. 1850s) and helped to create a \$200,000 endowment for scholarships for students of the German language and literature. This provides **four** \$2,000 scholarships to resident German majors each year.
- * Graduates of the German BA recently re-established the German language elective at Kalani High School and several UH German BA graduates have taught there as a part time staff.

The German program helps students acquire prestigious positions and scholarships, e.g.:

- * Maj. Gen. Suzanne P. Vares-Lum, mobilization assistant to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, recently gave Prof. Schweizer and the German language credit for catapulting her into a stellar career. While stationed in Würzburg, Germany, she became the platoon leader of military intelligence soldiers who served as German and Russian linguists.

- * UHM Kyra Howe (German BA, 2013) received a scholarship to attend the MA program in German and European Studies at the BMW Center for German and European Studies at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.
- * Over the past decade, at least half a dozen German students have received the CBYX (Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange) scholarship to spend a year in Germany, where they received further language training and participated in internships specifically to further their chosen careers.

German is an essential component of a liberal education:

- * German is a leading language of science, literature, art, music, philosophy, history and political science, and has been an essential component of liberal education since the 13th century.
- * Germany is the largest economy in the European Union and the fourth largest economy in the world after the USA, China and Japan.
- * German is the 10th most widely spoken language in the world and is spoken by over 200 million people worldwide.
- * Today, 10% of all books published world-wide are in the German language.
- * Over 150,000 German speakers visit Hawai'i each year.
- * The number of learners of German worldwide is on the rise (now 15.5 million).

The German faculty distinguishes UH locally, nationally, and internationally:

- * Professor Niklaus Schweizer, former Honorary Swiss Consul in Hawai'i, is an internationally recognized authority on European and Pacific History. He has received honors for both his knowledge and service to the Hawaiian community and contributed to TV programs that are aired all over Europe. In 2011, he was awarded the Robert W. Clopton Award for Distinguished Community Service. He is regarded by the Friends of 'Iolani Palace as a living cultural treasure and in 2008, the Royal Order of Kamehameha recognized him as an "Honorary Ali'i" in the Most Noble Royal Order of Kamehameha I, an honor extended to few men not of Hawaiian ancestry and based on outstanding service to the Hawaiian community. Professor Schweizer also specializes in German literature of the 18th and 19th centuries.
- * The Head of the German program, Professor Maryann Overstreet, is an internationally recognized expert on a newly recognized category of linguistic expressions called 'general extenders' and has published monographs on this topic with Oxford University Press (1999) and Cambridge University Press (contracted manuscript under review), as well as a German textbook with Routledge (2016). As the program's linguist, she is responsible for teaching higher-level language classes and co-ordinating and maintaining the high-quality language instruction that characterizes all levels of the program.
- * Professor Christina Gerhardt's research focuses on German studies, film and environmental humanities. Among her publications are Screening the Red Army Faction: Historical and Cultural Memory (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018) and Atlas of Remote Islands and Sea Level Rise (University of California Press, under contract). She has received grants from the Fulbright Commission, the DAAD and

the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the past decade, Professor Gerhardt has created a number of new courses on modern literature, culture and film which have enriched the program and brought the curriculum in line with peer institutions on the mainland.

The German program provides courses that meet requirements for other degrees:

BA in Astronomy recommends that majors take **German**, French or Japanese.

BS in Astrophysics recommends that majors take **German**, French or Japanese.

BA in Chemistry recommends that majors take **German**, French, Russian or Japanese.

BS in Chemistry recommends that majors take **German**, French, Russian or Japanese.

MA in Musicology majors must demonstrate a reading knowledge of French or **German**.

PhD students in Musicology must take two European languages: **German** and one other, preferably French.

MA Philosophy students are recommended to take 4 semesters of one philosophically significant language: typically classical Greek, Latin, French, **German**...

PhD Philosophy students must demonstrate proficiency in at least one (and where necessary two) philosophically significant language(s): typically classical Greek, Latin, French, **German**, Arabic, classical Chinese, Japanese, Sanskrit or Pali.

Aside from New Zealand, UHM is the only major educational institution in the Pacific Basin that offers German.

The German program provides courses to meet General Education requirements:

Many of our courses have designations that help students meet their General Education requirements, including: HAP (Hawaiian, Asian, Pacific Issues), HSL (Hawaiian/Second Language requirement), WI (Writing Intensive), DH (Diversification: Humanities), ETH (Ethics), DL (Diversification: Literature), OC (Oral Communication). We also have a brand-new FGC course.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the above. Next month, I will submit supportive documents and data to further support the case for maintaining the German BA at UH Mānoa.

Aloha,
Maryann Overstreet
Professor of German and German Section Head

Petition to save the German BA program at UH Mānoa

We, **members of the UH faculty**, believe that a research university needs German, which is required or recommended for many graduate programs across a wide range of disciplines. Germany is currently a leader of the free world and has one of the world's largest economies. German is also an important language in the history of our state: the Hawai'i-Pacific collection houses an abundance of original work in German that has yet to be translated, including works by ethnologists, naturalists, linguists, poets, painters and "local" Germans who ran local businesses. Eliminating the German BA program would be a short-sighted move, which would be detrimental to the university as a whole and not in the interest of the wider community.

(Please insert your name below, along with your department/program affiliation. Please insert it into the list so that last names appear alphabetically)

1. Tamara Albertini, Chair and Professor of Philosophy
2. Lucia Aranda, Professor and Chair of LLEA
3. Mary Babcock, Professor, Art and Art History
4. Cristina Bacchilega, Professor of English, retired
5. Robert Ball, Professor Emeritus of Classics and former Chair of LLEA
6. Celia Bardwell-Jones, Professor of Philosophy, UH Hilo
7. Harald Barkhoff, Professor & Chair, Kinesiology & Exercise Sciences, UH Hilo
8. Ned Bertz, Associate Professor of History
9. Sai Bhatawadekar, Associate Prof. IPLL
10. Jack Bilmes, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
11. Mark Branner, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance
12. Frank Brenker, Professor of Mineralogy and Cosmochemistry, Goethe University Frankfurt and Affiliate Member of the UH, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology
13. Thomas Browder, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
14. Louis Bousquet, Associate Professor of French
15. John Casken, Associate Specialist Nursing
16. Marta Gonzalez-Llret, Professor, Department of LLEA
17. Nandini Chandra, Associate Professor, Department of English
18. Paul M. Chandler, Spanish Professor
19. Sumi Chang, Instructor in Korean, East Asian Languages and Literatures
20. Meda Chesney-Lind, Professor Emerita of Women's Studies
21. Vanessa Chong, Study Abroad Advisor, Study Abroad Center and the College of Social Sciences
22. Michael A. Chohey, Librarian, Manoa Library Services
23. Evelyn Coffey, Lecturer of French
24. Martha E. Crosby, Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
25. Dustin Crowther, Assistant Professor, Second Language Studies

26. Stewart Curry, Instructor in Japanese, East Asian Languages and Literatures
27. Ming-Bao Yue, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures
28. Reed Dasenbrock, Professor of English and former Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
29. Martin Despang, Professor, School of Architecture
30. Daphne Desser, Associate Professor of English
31. Philip von Doetinchem, Associate Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy
32. Sandra von Doetinchem, Interim Chair & Program Specialist, Outreach College
33. Patricia Donegan, Department of Linguistics (retired)
34. Karl Heinz Dovermann, Professor of Mathematics
35. Katie Drager, Associate Professor of Linguistics
36. Emanuel J. Drechsel, Professor (retired), Interdisciplinary Studies/Adjunct Professor, Linguistics Department
37. Harald Ebeling, Astronomer, Institute for Astronomy
38. Li Tokikake, Graduate Student (ABD)/Graduate Assistant, History Department
39. Laurel Flores Fantauzzo, Assistant Professor, Department of English
40. Anna Feuerstein, Associate Professor, Department of English
41. Ivonne Fitzgerald, Instructor of Spanish
42. Sean Forte, Instructor of Japanese
43. Bonnie J. Fox, Lecturer of Korean and Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of EALL
44. Cynthia Franklin, Professor of English
45. Christopher Freeman, Graduate Student, Department of Physics & Astronomy
46. Michiko Fukasawa, Graduate Assistant, EALL
47. Shin Fukuda, Associate Professor & Associate/Graduate Chair, EALL
48. John T. Gagnon, Assistant Professor of English
49. Kim Galante-Wong, Instructor of Spanish
50. George Theodore Garneau, Lecturer of English, French, Italian
51. Christina Gerhardt, Associate Professor of German
52. Betsy Gilliland, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair, Second Language Studies
53. Monica Ghosh, South Asia Studies Librarian, Asia Collection
54. Krissa Mae Guevarra, Department of Second Language Studies
55. David Gustavsen, Librarian, Library Services
56. Theres Grüter, Associate Professor and Graduate Chair, Second Language Studies
57. Andre Haag, Assistant Professor, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures
58. Angela Häusler, Program Manager, The Language Flagship Technology Innovation Center
59. Lloyd Hamasaki, Instructor of Classics
60. Jaimey Hamiltion Faris, Associate Professor, Art and Art History
61. Katinka Hammerich, Instructor of German
62. Vera Hanaoka, Graduate Student (ABD), Graduate Assistant (Japanese), East Asian Languages and Literatures
63. Naish Harlan, Alumni BA German, BS Mechanical Engineering
64. Daniel Harris-McCoy, Associate Professor and Chair of Classics
65. Kenton Harsch, Undergraduate Coordinator, Second Language Studies

66. Anna Hawajska-Waters, Instructor of German
67. Tiffany Hayler, Mathematics Lecturer, Windward CC
68. Mark Heberle, Professor of English
69. Manfred Henningsen, Professor, Political Science
70. Rachel Mamiya Hernandez, Instructor, LLEA
71. Katharina Heyer, Associate Professor, Political Science
72. Jason Kenji Higa, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anatomy, Biochemistry, & Physiology
73. Derrick Higginbotham, Associate Professor, Dept of English
74. Christina Higgins, Professor, Second Language Studies
75. Dieter Hillert, Professor, Linguistics/Cognitive Science
76. Peter H. Hoffenberg, Associate Professor of History
77. Kathryn A. Hoffmann, Professor of French, LLEA
78. Daniel Holden, Graduate Assistant, Department of Second Language Studies
79. Lorna Holmes, Instructor of Classics
80. Craig Howes, Professor of English
81. Ruth Y. Hsu, Associate Professor of English
82. Jacob Huss, Instructor of French, LLEA
83. Yuko Ida, PhD student, Department of Educational Foundations
84. Daniel Isbell, Assistant Professor, Second Language Studies
85. Masato Ishida, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
86. Tomoko Iwai, Instructor in Japanese, East Asian Languages and Literatures
87. Robert Jedicke, Astronomer, Institute for Astronomy
88. Li Jiang, Associate Professor, EALL
89. Karen Jolly, Professor of History, UHM
90. Fiona Langenberger, Program Coordinator, Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System, SOEST UH Manoa
91. Karen Kadohiro Lauer, Librarian, Library Services
92. Lauren R. Kaiser, Lecturer, UH System
93. Ralf I. Kaiser, Professor, Department of Chemistry
94. Peiling Kao, Assistant Professor of Dance, Department of Theatre & Dance
95. Gabriele Kasper, Professor, Second Language Studies
96. Linde Keil, Adjunct Professor, Spanish Department
97. Mason Kenton, Graduate Teaching Assistant of Spanish
98. Sara King, PhD student, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
99. Kathryn Klingebiel, Emerita Professor of French, LLEA
100. Jesse Knutson, Associate Professor of Sanskrit Language and Literature & Chair, Indo-Pacific Languages & Literatures
101. Ingo Koomoa-Lange, Assistant Professor, The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo
102. Anastasia Kostetskaya, Associate Professor of Russian, Chair
103. Luisa Kou, Instructor of Spanish
104. Uli Kozok, Professor, Indo-Pacific Languages
105. Waldkraut Krohn-Ching, Professor Emerita, UHM

106. Alexander N. Krot, Research Professor, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (Humboldt Fellow, took several 300-level German classes)
107. Christopher Lauer, Associate Professor, UH Hilo Department of Philosophy
108. Janine Laurent-Low
109. Max Lee, Advisor, Study Abroad Center & College of Natural Sciences
110. Axel T. Lehrer, Associate Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology
111. Cory M. Lenz, Law Library Faculty, UH Manoa
112. Michael Lieberman, Dept. of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and Pharmacology
113. Joy Logan, Professor of Spanish & LAIS, LLEA
114. Fabio López Lázaro, Associate Professor, History Department
115. Kapali Lyon, Chair, Department of Religion
116. Brenda Machosky, Professor of English, UH West O`ahu
117. Glenn Man, Professor of English
118. Hannah Manshel, Assistant Professor of English
119. Jelena Maricic, Professor of Physics
120. Akihiko Masuda, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
121. Kieko Matteson, Associate Professor, Department of History
122. Ashley Maynard, Professor of Psychology
123. Megan McInnis, Preventive Conservation Specialist, Preserv. Dept., Hamilton Library
124. Kate McQuiston, Professor, Department of Music
125. Anne Misawa, Associate Professor, Academy for Creative Media
126. Masaru Mito, Instructor in Japanese, East Asian Languages and Literatures
127. Emi Murayama, Instructor in Japanese, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
128. Vivek R. Nerurkar, Professor and Chair, Dept of Trop Med, Medical Micro and Pharm
129. Amy Nishimura, Professor of English, UHWO
130. Lawrence Nitz, Professor, Political Science
131. Njoroge Njoroge, Associate Professor, Department of History
132. Carmen Nolte-Odhiambo, Associate Professor of English, UH West O`ahu
133. Heather Nysten, Instructor of Spanish
134. William O`Grady, Professor of Linguistics
135. Miki Ogasawara, Instructor, EALL, Japanese
136. Michael-Brian Ogawa, Associate Specialist, Information and Computer Sciences
137. Joseph O`Mealy, Emeritus Professor, former Dean of LLL Department
138. Peter Orte, Lecturer in Russian, LLEA,
139. Joana O`Steen, Graduate Student/Graduate Assistant, Department of English
140. Maryann Overstreet, Professor and Chair of German
141. Michael Pak, Assistant Professor of English, UHWO
142. Young-a Park, Associate Professor of Asian Studies
143. Magdalena Petko, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of SLS

144. Yun Peng, Associate Professor, EALL
145. Tiare Picard, English Lecturer, UHWO
146. Attila Pohlmann, Professor, Shidler Graduate, UH Manoa
147. Claudia Pummer, Lecturer, Academy for Creative Media
148. Adib Rahman, Graduate Assistant, Office of Public Health Studies
149. Narayan S. Raja, Specialist, Institute for Astronomy
150. Grace Ray, Instructor of Japanese
151. Kenneth Rehg, Assoc. Prof., Department of Linguistics (retired)
152. Hilson Reidpath, PhD Student and Graduate Assistant, East Asian Languages
and Literatures
153. Timothy J Reiss, Visiting Scholar, English; Professor Emeritus, Comp. Lit., NYU
154. Scott Robertson, Chair and Professor, Information and Computer Sciences
155. Julio Rodriguez, Director of the Center for Language & Technology
156. Yasmine Romero, Assistant Professor of English
157. Scott Rowland, Specialist, Dept. of Earth Sciences
158. Ashley Rubin, Assistant Professor of Sociology
159. David Rubin, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy
160. Klaus Sattler, Professor of Physics
161. Michael J. Shapiro, Professor of Political Science
162. Thomas B Schmidt, Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Philosophy
163. Niklaus R. Schweizer, Professor of German, Historian Consular Corps of Hawai'i
164. Susan M. Schultz, Professor of English
165. Sandra Schwartz, Associate Professor of History
166. Nathalie Ségeral, Associate Professor of French
167. Danielle Seid, Assistant Professor of English
168. Peter-Michael Seidel, Associate Professor, ICS Department
169. S. Shankar, Professor and Chair, English
170. Nandita Sharma, Professor, Sociology
171. Sean M. Smith, Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Chair, Department of
Philosophy
172. Fata Simanu-Klutz, Associate Professor, Samoan Literature, IPLL
173. Gwen Sinclair, Librarian, Library Services
174. Juvana Soliven, Lecturer, Department of Art and Art History
175. Trevor Sorensen, Specialist, Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory
176. Michael P. Speidel, Professor Emeritus, History Department
177. Miriam T. Stark, Professor, Anthropology & Director, Center for SE Asian Studies
178. Manfred B. Steger, Professor of Sociology
179. Carolyn Stephenson, Associate Professor, Political Science
180. Susanne Still, Professor, Department of Information and Computer Sciences
181. Manca Sustarsic, PhD student, Department of Educational Foundations
182. Mitsuko Suzuki, Graduate Assistant, Department of Second Language Studies
183. Michelle Tallquist, Professor, JABSOM, UH Manoa
184. Joseph J. Tanke, Professor, Philosophy
185. Yumiko Tateyama, Instructor, East Asian Languages and Literatures

186. Kathryn Teets, Alumni Psychology, Current Associate Coach, Water Polo
187. Ty Tengan, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies (Chair) and Anthropology
188. Eric M. Thau, Associate Professor of Spanish & LAIS
189. Jose Carlos Tomé, Instructor of Spanish
190. Jennie Tran, Lecturer of German
191. Tracy Trevorrow, Professor, Psychology
192. Sven Vahsen, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
193. Jonas Vibell, Assistant Professor, Psychology
194. George Wang, Professor, Academy for Creative Media
195. Wei-Kung Wang, Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical
Microbiology and Pharmacology
196. Lei Wakayama, Program Specialist, Outreach College
197. W. Steven Ward, Professor and Director, Institute for Biogenesis Research
198. Eldon L. Wegner, Past Chair and Professor Emeritus in Sociology
199. Markus Wessendorf, Chair and Professor, Dept. of Theatre & Dance
200. Andrew Wertheimer, Associate Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
201. Emily M. West, Assistant Professor, Department of English
202. Jonathan Williams, Astronomer, Institute for Astronomy
203. Konni Wilson, Admissions Counselor, Office of Admissions, BA in German UHM
204. Patrick Woo, Instructor of Japanese, Dept. of East Asian Languages and
Literatures
205. Lois A. Yamauchi, Professor, Department of Educational Psychology
206. Ronald H Yanagihara, MD, Univ Hawaii Cancer Center
207. Frank Zelko, Associate Professor of History
208. Benjamin Zenk, 2018 PhD Philosophy UHM and Instructor of Management,
University of Hawaii at Hilo, former student of UH German program
209. Herbert F. Ziegler, Associate Professor of History (ret.)
210. John David Zuern, Professor, Department of English
211. Dongping Zheng, Associate Professor, Department of Second Language Studies
212. Please insert your name into the list so that last names appear alphabetically)

(Please insert your name above, along with your department/program affiliation.)

Petition to save the German BA program at UH Mānoa

We, **students of UH Mānoa and members of the Hawai'i community**, strongly oppose the elimination of the UH Mānoa German BA program. German is a heritage language in Hawai'i and has been an important language in the islands since the 1880s, when German businessmen and explorers began arriving on our shores. German was one of just two foreign languages offered when our university was first opened in 1908. Many of our local residents have benefitted from the German BA program, receiving scholarships from the German Benevolent Society to help offset their tuition at UH Mānoa, receiving various scholarships to study, do internships and work in Germany and Austria, as well as to pursue graduate studies on the mainland.

Please read before signing.

Please add your name below **alphabetical order by last name**: first name then last name.

If you received or are **currently pursuing a German BA or certificate**, please note that and the year of graduation (past or future) after your name.

If you are a current student who is **not yet a major or pursuing a certificate**, please indicate what level German you are taking, eg: currently taking German 101.

Vielen Dank!

1. Daniel Abt
2. Alanna Ackerman, Certificate in German
3. Rowena Ahia, BA German 2014
4. Kylie Akiona
5. Adrian Alarilla
6. Magda Alexander
7. Vanessa Almanza
8. Jared Altenhof, Student in German 101
9. Justin Alter, currently taking German 102
10. Herman Allerstorfer
11. Stephanie Anderson Esq., Certificate in German, graduated 2010
12. Nick Antin
13. Taylor Alexander, BA German 2018
14. Michael Arcangel, Currently in GER 202
15. Christopher Amandi
16. Dr. Alexandra Axtmann
17. Christian Arakaki, BA in German 2023
18. Zachary Arakaki

19. Nadia Arzberger
20. Jacqueline Awa, BA International Business, Minor German, 1 year exchange student Cologne.
21. Dominik Axtmann
22. Brigitte Baccus
23. Jaric Balmores, UH Manoa BA German Candidate 2021
24. Gabriele Barthlen, M.D
25. Franziska Bass
26. patrick batt
27. Paula Batt
28. Kevin Bätischer, PhD Candidate, Department of Linguistics
29. Alina Baumgart, BA German 2019
30. Jeffrey Baza, UH Manoa German certificate candidate
31. Hui-Fang Bauer (German Certificate 1997)
32. Tanja Beck
33. Laura Becker
34. Jaycie Bell, currently taking German 102
35. Kahea Bencke
36. Yosef Ben Gershom
37. Anne Benvil
38. Pedro Bergmann, former German student
39. Petra Bergmann
40. Eugen Bertschinger
41. Heidi Bertucci
42. Martin Bessner, German native speaker
43. Carlos Betancourt, German 201
44. Anett Betancourt
45. Amy Blackwell, former UHM German student
46. Dieter Bluhm, San Francisco Stammtisch
47. Gabrielle Boecker, current German 201 student
48. Elvine Bologna, Program Coordinator, Foreign Lang. & Lit., UNM
49. Ivan Bondoc
50. Arabelle Bottorff
51. Daniela Böttjer-Wilson
52. Ljilijana Burgmann
53. Ulf Burgmann
54. Elizabeth Bowen, BA German 2023 (studied 5 years in high school)
55. Lucas Boyd, German 201
56. Robert Brewer
57. Clark Bright, current Bandmaster, Royal Hawaiian Band
58. Nicole Brunsink
59. Carleton Burch, studied German in college
60. Anne Bush, Professor, Art and Art History
61. Dr. Duyen Bui

62. Alex Cadavona, German 102-202 student majoring in healthcare studies and soon-to-be Berlin travel study applicant
63. Latisha Cajudoy, former UHM German student
64. Ndeye Calixte
65. Debbie Cannon-DuBois
66. Michael DuBois
67. Paul Chandler, German 101-202 student
68. Kimrey Chaney
69. Amy Chang, former UHM German student, current UHM Fall 2020 GEPN student
70. John Chilcott (NaKupuna Senior Citizen Visitor Program)
71. Kenneth Choi, former German 101-202 student
72. Norah Clark, current 303 student
73. Albrecht Classen, University Distinguished Professor of German Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson and part time Hilo resident (remember, the first Hawaiian dictionary was created by a German author, Chamisso!)
74. Eileen Conaty
75. Sue E. Crawford
76. Katherine Crosier
77. Anke Cruse
78. Dr. Judy Chun
79. Joshua Cooper
80. Paige Coppedge
81. Brian Crow
82. Joachim Crystalhenge
83. Shanda Shamela de los Reyes
84. Dorian Daimer, German native speaker
85. Wiebke Daniels
86. Thomas Daubert
87. Ingeborg Daeubert
88. Mark Dayao
89. Dianne Deauna
90. Giselle De La Gente, former German student, Bachelor's of Art in English
91. Meghan Delaney
92. Jarrett Dempsey
93. Theres Ryf Desai, Honorary Consul of Switzerland
94. Lila DeTreaux
95. Dagmar de Zwart
96. James Di Giambattista, Ph.D., Agent for the Pacific Islands, The Library of Congress
97. Daniel Dickler
98. Larry Dicks
99. Evan Dieterich
100. George J. Dixon, Ph.D. Retired Assoc. Professor, Honolulu Community
101. Jaime Deguzman
102. Monica Dittbern-Wang, former German student, Bachelor of Science in Botany

103. Moya Donahue
104. Patricia Donegan
105. Josette Dooley, Currently taking GER 201, will be taking more in future semesters
106. Martin Dorsch
107. Dana Dorsch
108. Barbara Downs
109. Paul Downs
110. Olexiy Dvornikov
111. Gelarni Elacio
112. Kim Elwyn
113. Helga Emmerson, Translator/Interpreter - German/English/German, Tutor
114. John Emmerson, 1971 College of Engineering, Chief Engineer in Aschaffenburg 1979-82 with 35 Germans on staff
115. Sage Enomoto, BA in German, 2022
116. Jade Enomoto
117. Christopher Escalante, DAAD RISE Alumni 2014
118. Claudia Evanoff, German teacher
119. George Evanoff
120. Claudia Evenschor, native German
121. Mario Everett
122. Marie-José Fassiotto, Emerita Professor
123. Scott Fikse
124. Kaleiahihi Fermantez
125. Helen Luna Fess, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
126. Mary Fiedler, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
127. Jason Foberg
128. Douglas Forsell
129. Robert Friedl
130. Christiane Friese, BA German Lit. UH/1975
131. Philipp Frings
132. Sunhee Kim Fujii, Program Specialist, Second Language Studies
133. Robert Fullmer
134. Catherine Fullmer
135. Lynn Furusawa
136. Roxane Gaedeke, certificate in German, UH Manoa
137. Suzy Gartside
138. Skylar Geasey, German 202 student
139. Elke Gebhardt
- 140.
141. Patrick Gill
142. Elke Gephard
143. Olaf K. Gitter, Ph.D.1976, UH Manoa, First generation German immigrant

144. Karen Glomb who has 20+ German ancestors who fought at the Battle of Oriskany for American Independence in NY in the Revolutionary War
145. Chris Godwin
146. Lorenz Gonschor, former TA for LLEA 371 "Europeans in the Pacific." Currently lecturer at University of French Polynesia, Tahiti. The German program at UH is an essential tool for research in Hawaiian and Pacific history, as many important primary and secondary sources are in German
147. S. Elizabeth Graham
148. Stefanie Griffith
149. George J. Gubener
150. Mary Mapuana Haas
151. Rebecca Habermann, German B.A. 1992, SBDS
152. Sabine Hadulco, German native speaker
153. Dr. Angela Haeusler
154. Thomas A. Hagner, BA in German 2008
155. Thomas H. Hahn, Ph.D, German Literature (U of Heidelberg)
156. Brigitte Hahn-Miller, German native speaker
157. Kimberly Haines, Hamilton Library (ret.) and former UH German student
158. Jessica Hamad
159. Aleta Hammerich
160. Sarah Han, Germanic 101
161. Olof Carl Johannes Hansen, German native speaker
162. Alicia Hanta
163. Ani Hanta
164. Hayley Hanta, BA in German 2016, CBYX 2015
165. Edd Tokarz Harnas (NaKupuna Senior Citizen Visitor Program)
166. John Hassler, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
167. Keiko Hassler, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
168. Justin Chad Hayag, pursuing a BA in German, Fall 2020
169. Alexander Heaukulani, Alumni, Political Science
170. Kate Heinzen-Jim, M
171. Oliver Heitmann
172. Wolfgang Jürgen Hermann, 2009
173. Karin Louise Hermes, UHM alumna
174. Hannelore Herrmann
175. Harald Herrmann
176. Gary Hickling, a three-year participant in UH German courses
177. Akira Hirayama, Program Director, Manoa Japanese Language School
178. Ray T. Hironaka
179. Jacquelyn Ho
180. Jessielyn Ho
181. Kathlyn Ho
182. Cindi Hodgdon
183. Angelina Holcom, German certificate 2017

184. Christina Holcom
185. Astrid Holder V. President of United German American of San Francisco
186. Gerhard Holder
187. Tristan Holmes, PhD, UHM alumnus
188. Kyra Howe, former student, BA in German and Anthropology
189. Karl Hsu, German Minor, 2014
190. Josef Huels
191. William Hughes-Duffy, BA in German, 2021
192. Hannah-Lynn Hullett, 2014 Grad & studied German throughout my years at UH
193. Michiko Imai
194. Clara Inouye
195. Barbara Insisiengmay
196. Wolfram Irsa; CIRM, CFPIM - native speaker from Austria
197. Taressa Ishimi, BA in German, 2014
198. Akbar Jalili Kamalian
199. Sandy Jansen, U.H. Minor in German 1998
200. Sigrid Jarrett, German Ladies Benevolent Society, San Francisco
201. Mason Jenkins, German BA, 2022
202. Josann Jenks
203. Kyle Johnson, Fall 2020 GEPN Student
204. Kū Kahakalau Ph.D., UHM M.A. ELL - German 1990
205. Lauren Kaiser
206. Sophie Kaiser
207. Josephine Kaiser
208. Kathleen Kane
209. Loraine Kanervisto, German BA 2010
210. Elmer Kapuaala, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
211. Heide M. Kawahata
212. Kevin Y. Kawamoto, MSW, Ph.D.
213. Frances Kay
214. Maiya Keawe-Costa, currently taking German 102
215. Linde Keil, Ph.D.
216. Alissa Kelly - former German student, UH
217. Jane Kern
218. Eva Keusen Dayao
219. Dr. Alain Khayat
220. Bernardette Kidder
221. Jonathan Kim, BA in German, 2008
222. Margarethe Kircher
223. Dieter G. Kircher
224. Ellen Kischel, German native
225. Terry Klafehn
226. Aiyana Kleefisch
227. Cari Knowles - UH Manoa BA in German, 2016

- 228. Trond Knutsen
- 229. Julia Koch, Director Language Department, Goethe-Institut San Francisco
- 230. Dr. Irina Y. Kolotyrkina, marine-chemist
- 231. Kooke Koerner, current german 201 student
- 232. Shirley Koob
- 233. Ingo Koomoa-Lange, Assistant Professor, The Daniel K. Inouye College of
Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo
- 234. Natalie Kozak
- 235. Bernhard Krevet, Deutscher Stammtisch San Francisco und Napa
- 236. Ake Denton-Kubo, German certificate 2019
- 237. Carolina Kuchinke
- 238. Lars Kummerow
- 239. Cherry Lacsina
- 240. Mareike Lagazo
- 241. Paulina Lagemann
- 242. Silke Lagemann
- 243. Manuel Lagemann
- 244. Ferdinand Lagemann
- 245. Oscar Lagemann
- 246. Emily Lam
- 247. Haley Lamb, German 202 student
- 248. Christine Lamborn
- 249. Amber Lane
- 250. Dr. Volker Langbehn, Professor of German Studies, San Francisco State
University
- 251. Fiona Langenberger
- 252. Victoria Larson (former German student,UHM)
- 253. Rickey Larkin
- 254. Adam Lauer
- 255. Janine Laurent-Low, German native speaker
- 256. Patrick Layton
- 257. Uy-Di Nancy Le, BA German 2016, Fulbright ETA Grant recipient in Germany
2018
- 258. Lianne Marie Leda Charlie, PhD Candidate, Indigenous Politics, Department of
Political Science
- 259. Antoinette Lee, President, Friends of the Royal Hawaiian Band
- 260. Anthony Lee
- 261. Elizabeth Lee, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
- 262. Jeffrey Lee
- 263. Max Lee, study abroad in Berlin
- 264. Mollie Lee
- 265. Rebecca Lee
- 266. Regan Lee, pursuing a BA in German, Fall 2021
- 267. Rona Lee

- 268. Malaetele Lefiti, BA in German, 2020
- 269. Dylan Leigh, Certificate in German, Fall 2019
- 270. Brianna Leisure
- 271. Beatrice Lemke-Newman, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
- 272. Kelli Lemuth (Gatewood), BA in German, 2008
- 273. Cory M. Lenz
- 274. Frauke Govinda Leopold, the Kumulipo was first translated into German.. Hawai'i Pono'i was composed by a German.. Please keep the cultural connection alive
- 275. Jennifer Leung
- 276. Solay Lewis, currently taking german 101
- 277. Gabriele Lischetzki
- 278. Jasmine Liu
- 279. Krystal Lopez, BA in German 2019
- 280. Alicia Lou
- 281. Christiane Lucas
- 282. Gertruda Luermann
- 283. Dr. Clifton Luke (Harvard BA, MA, PhD)
- 284. Christopher Ma, BA German 2017
- 285. Matthew Maertens
- 286. Alvin Magallanes, BA German 2008
- 287. HJ Mai
- 288. Capt Danny Makalena, USAF, studied 2 semesters German, Grad 2015, Meteorology
- 289. Elmer Manley, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
- 290. Anita Manning
- 291. Nicole Manson (née Deyerl), UHM Alumni and Former German Student
- 292. Amy Mar, currently taking Ger 202, Ger 308
- 293. Tanner Martin
- 294. Jason Marvel
- 295. Ko Matsui, Urban Designer
- 296. Sara Matsumura
- 297. Jack Mattice, MA, UH College of Ed, 2003
- 298. Otto Matzenauer, Swiss and American musician
- 299. Jamie Mazurski, currently taking German 201
- 300. Patrick McCrindle, current German 102 student.
- 301. Brandon McMurtry
- 302. 2d Lt USAF, Julie McCrory, BA in German 2018
- 303. Doris Mehler
- 304. Daniel Meier
- 305. Alexander Meimer, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
- 306. Christine Meimer
- 307. Wiebke Meineke, German teacher
- 308. Laurenz Melchers
- 309. Anke Melchers

310. Annie Merrill
311. Kim Mews
312. Andrew Meyer
313. Annett Meyer
314. Patrick Meyer Jr
315. Ulla Meyerhoff
316. Josh Minnich
317. Sandra Mitchell
318. Nicholas Miyamoto-Pennywell, German 202 Student
319. Rose Marie Monje, UH Manoa Alumni, Accounting
320. Steven Lee Montgomery, Ph.D. Proficiency in reading German science was & is valuable.
321. John A. Moore
322. Sharon H. Moore
323. Jill Morris, German Language Certificate, 2009
324. Jonathan Moroney, certificate in German UH Manoa
325. Elena Moser, BA German, 2013
326. Nancy Morris, PhD, author on native Hawaiian missionaries and clergy and former curator of the Charlot Collection in Hamilton Library
327. Michael Mueller-Ali, native speaker
328. Barbara Mueller-Ali
329. Manfred Nagel
330. Greg Nakai
331. Haley Nakamura
332. Ren Nakamura, Pursuing a B.A. in German, 2021
333. Elizabeth Nakoa
334. Aleia Natividad
335. Leroy Newman, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
336. Martin Newman MD
337. Theo Nguyen-Phuoc, currently taking German 102 and planned on getting a BA in German
338. Thu Ha Nguyen German 101-102 student
339. Maria Miller Nicoll
340. Jill Niland
341. Glenda Nogami Streufert
342. Leighton Nino
343. Noemie Njangiru, Director Goethe-Institut San Francisco
344. Artur Nogueira, current German major taking German 303, 308
345. Emily Norman, BA German, 2018
346. Michaela Nuesser, MA German 2019, current UH PhD student in SLS
347. Dianne O'Berry
348. Jessica O'Berry, former UHM German student
349. Gerda Obercker
350. Charlie Occhipinti

351. Anastasia O'Harrow, German 101-202 student
352. Sheila O'Keefe
353. Christine Olah
354. Gerald Oliveira
355. Levi K. Oliveira
356. Hanna Olsson - German Student, 2017
357. Joseph O'Mealy, Emeritus Professor
358. Jesko Onken
359. Wessel Oosthuisen
360. Gwynne Osaki, former UHM German student
361. Jonathan Oshiro German 101-202 & 311 at UHManoa
362. Jeremy K. O'Steen, married to a German/attorney
363. Robert S. Ostrem, Jr. President German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
364. Brigitte Otto, German native speaker
365. Erika Pae
366. Angela Park, BA in German UH Manoa 2017
367. Melissa Pawneshing, Certificate in German 2010
368. Justin Paz, currently taking German 201
369. Noah Perales-Estoesta
370. Jeffrey Percival
371. Lars Peterson, German & U.S./HI citizen, resident & attorney
372. Colin Petko, MD
373. Luca Petko
374. Magdalena Petko, BA in German and SLS 2019
375. Alyssa Peric
376. Carlotta Pesentheiner, Austrian Association of Hawai'i
377. Helmuth Pepi Pesentheiner, Austrian Association of Hawai'i
378. Karl Pfeiffer, Treasurer, German-American School Association of Northern California
379. Ngan Pham - currently taking GER 301 and will take more
380. Dorothy Phillips, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
381. Gordon S. Pickering - Library Services APT & current German 303 student
382. Sarah James Piedra, BA in German 2020
383. Ryan Pittinger, BA in German 2015, German Honor Society member
384. Karin Plischinsky, German native
385. Kenneth Plonsky
386. Bibiana Ostheimer Potter, German language instructor
387. Peter Poerzgen, PhD from University, Bonn/Germany, former faculty at HPU
388. Emil Prigge, Jr. German Benevolent Society
389. Lucas Proebstel, GER 303 pursuing certificate
390. Mujtaba Quadri
391. Evette Angela Racaza, former German student, Bachelor's of Art in Business Marketing
392. Manuela Radovan

393. Jeannie Ramelb, BA in German, 2017
394. Makayla Ramos, currently taking German 201
395. Roslyn Raney, PhD
396. Angela Rathyen
397. Heidi (Heidrun) Read
398. Anupama Reddy
399. Lloyd Regina
400. Hans Thomas Rehbock
401. Akemi Patricia Rehbock-Hiraki
402. Hannelore Rehbock
403. Peter Reich Deutscher Stammtisch San Francisco
404. Rachelle Reiff
405. Petra Rembert, German native speaker and tutor
406. Doris Rech
407. Kaira Resch
408. Kuuleilani Reyes, former German student, UHM
409. Andrea Riecke, MA in German, 1997
410. Jenny Riley-Doyle, German language
411. Joseph Rodgers, United Nations, retired + teacher
412. Edwin Roman, former German student
413. Sabine Ronge
414. Ghissou Rosala AATG-HI Chapter President
415. Roxana Rosala, BA in German 2017
416. Alan Rowland Kupuna student (UHM)
417. Sabine Roxin
418. Novelynn Rubsamen
419. Dieter Runge
420. Caitlin Sabado
421. Savanna Sahara, BA German & BS biology 2020
422. Dr. David Keanu Sai, PhD. Political Scien
423. Philip Sammer
424. Shannon Sanchez, Certificate, Fall 2021
425. Anne Pyun Sanders
426. Brian Sanders, BA ICS 2017
427. Ria Sanford
428. Sean Sanford, MS in Math 2017
429. Domenica Sattler
430. Nicole Savino, BA German 2011
431. Todd Sato, UHM BFA 2018 and former German student
432. Margit Von Schafnitzel
433. Roman Von Schafnitzel
434. Manuela Seitz-Hipkins Speech and Language Pathologist, DaZ teacher
435. Gabriele Scheler, native German speaker
436. Kaelyn Schenkenberger, BA German 2018

437. Laura Schilling, former Student of German
438. Karin Schlappa
439. Rita Schmid
440. Thomas Schmidt
441. Christin Schmidt Quintal, native German
442. Inge Schoenekess Higa
443. Sarah Taylor Schuchard
444. Jeff Schueler
445. Nils Schuhmann, former UH Shidler student
446. Bryant Schultz, BA in German, 1985
447. Al Schütz, Professor Emeritus, Linguistics (signed in his memory by close friend
Kim Haines; Al would've been passionately opposed to this move to close the German B
448. Jan Schwarzenberg
449. Noah Sellars, B.A. German 2020
450. Peter-Michael Seidel
451. Janina Seitz
452. Pia Sektnan
453. Diane Sether, Ph.D.
454. Roswitha Shanahan, PsyD, native German
455. Jacob Shearer, BA in German, 2017
456. Hannah Shelton, PhD - BA in German, 2013
457. Greg Shepherd, former German student, UHM
458. Grace Shinohara, UH alumni, German major BA,B.Ed
459. Jesse Shiroma, BA in German, 2013
460. Carolyn Siegman
461. Zoey Simmons, pursuing a German Certificate Fall 2020
462. Natalie Smart
463. Chelsea Smith
464. Daniel Smith
465. Jill Smith, PhD
466. Jolene Smith
467. Gerrit Bruce Smith, MA German, 1999
468. Wesley Smith, Certificate German, 2017
469. Juvana Soliven
470. Jennifer Sou
471. Sir William D. Souza, ranking member of the Royal Order of Kamehameha and a
member of the German Benevolent Society
472. Roger Sorrell
473. Michael "Keoki" Spain, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
474. Samantha Spain, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
475. Gisela Speidel
476. Simone Spies
477. Nanea Spies
478. Uwe Sponholz

479. Ingrid Sponholz
480. Juergen Steinmetz
481. Kimberly Stern Case
482. Hans Steuck
483. Margret Steuck
484. Harald Stiller, Certificate German, 2009
485. Mariah St. John, BA German 2017
486. Ulrich Stams, MD, former Associate Professor, JABSOM
487. Greg Stauffer, UH Alum, German instructor
488. Philipp Steinmüller, native German (Now more than ever, UH must not cut down opportunities for building intercultural understanding.)
489. Benjamin D Stout, BA German, 2016
490. Thomas Strasburger
491. Katherine Strong
492. Soren Sudhof
493. Cheryl Sullivan
494. Ginni Sutherland
495. Dennis Suyeoka, Coffeeline
496. Beatrix Takenaka-Meyer
497. K. Tatem, physicist (German is valuable for studying original physics papers)
498. Hannelore Tavajian German 202
499. Ammen Tawfik
500. Petra Teege
501. Jacque Tellei
502. Melissa Terada
503. Gerard Terstiege, Retired United Airline Captain who flew often to Hawaii
504. Krista Terstiege, German Ladies Benevolent Society
505. Mura Tholen
506. Dr. Ann-Kristin Thomas
507. Alexandra Thompson, mother of a private German language student
508. Susan Tokairin
509. Walter Tokushige, MA German, 1975
510. Konomi Tran
511. Madoka Tran, BA in German, 2017
512. Benjamin Trevino
513. Jens Trumpa
514. COL, Ret. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D.
515. Johann Urschitz
516. Iris van der Zander
517. Alyssa Vandiver
518. George Vassilev
519. Jonas Vibell
520. Veronica I. Valle-Thau
521. Klaus Bodo Van Der Leeden

522. Liesel Van Der Leeden
523. Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, 1980s UHM German Student
524. Cheyenne Velez
525. Murray Visser, my wife is German and her brother is an engineer at Mercedes-Benz
526. Dr. Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, Professor and former Director of the UH Cancer Center
527. Andrea Wade
528. Jill Wagner
529. Erin Wakefield-McDonald, German Certificate '16
530. Mattia Walter
531. Dean Walton
532. Tim Waters
533. Graham Watt, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
534. Izumi Watt, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
535. Sabrina Weaver, currently taking German 101
536. Eldon L. Wegner, Former Chair and Professor Emeritus of Sociology
537. Franziska Weidner
538. Helen Werren
539. Terry Blair West Jr., BA German 2010
540. Brandie Weyh, certificate in German 2013, currently teaching in Germany
541. April White-Gallego
542. Patricia Whittingslow
543. Andreas Wiegand, German Certificate 1991, German M.A. 1997
544. Elke Wiegand
545. Siggie Wiegand
546. Julia Wieting, PhD
547. Jason Wilby, PhD German Studies, 2008
548. Anastasia Wilkinson
549. Bahareh Williams
550. David A. Williams, former student of German
551. Jimmy Williams
552. Laura Williams German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
553. Stephen Williams German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
554. Natalie Wohner, PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering Department
555. Robert Woelk, BA German 2012
556. Gerhard Woelke
557. Susanne Woitalla Pharmakis, attended UH in 1980s and took German
558. Kim-Hee Wong
559. Sharon Mei Wong
560. Victoria Wong, BA German, 2020
561. Oliver Wyrcki, former student of German
562. Jeff Yang
563. Eileen Yara

- 564. Dionna York
- 565. Alvin Y Yoshinaga
- 566. Christel Yount PH.D. German Studies, German teacher: Punahou, Damien,
Radford
- 567. Dr. George Yule
- 568. Richard Zeebe
- 569. D.R. Zimdahl
- 570. Theresa Phyllis Zerbe, German Benevolent Society of Honolulu
- 571. Please insert your name above alphabetical order by last name: first name then
last name.

If you received or are currently pursuing a BA or certificate in German, please note it and the year of graduation (past or future) after your name. If you are a current student who is not yet a major or pursuing a certificate, please indicate what level German you are taking, eg: German 101.

Vielen Dank!





BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Opposition to stop-out the BA in Philippine Language and Culture

Clarissa Mae Rago <cmrago@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:18 AM

To Whom this May concern,

My name is Clarissa Rago. I am a first-generation Filipino college student and Ethnic Studies major opposing the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Languages and Literature. Being of Filipino ancestry, it is essential to keep this degree as it is the only degree of its kind to be offered in America. The importance of this program is to keep with the diversity the University prides itself on establishing.

For the University to propose this discontinuation of these degrees for the fiscal year 2021-2022, the program will lose out on vital research to contribute to the greater Hawai'i community and mobilize the predominant Filipino youth in the Islands. It is no secret the vast majority of the Hawai'i residency is Filipino. I ask that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents reconsider their budget cuts as this will significantly impact the broader community. These courses have shaped me to truly strive to be a more community-oriented member and work more in youth outreach. These programs have given me a better insight into working with the youth in our public schools and help guide them into understanding that the University is rich in resources here for them to partake. The Indo-Pacific Language and Literature courses have helped recognize that Filipinos do not lack representation in the community but rather provide a safe place to have these discussions on the city on the next step to better invest and serve our the community. To cut these programs is incredibly tone-deaf and will harm the diversity the University strives to uphold. Please reconsider the impact this will have. Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,
Clarissa Rago



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

9/17 Testimony on the Reorganization of College of Arts Languages and Letters

Phyllis Raquinio <praquini@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:17 AM

Naimbag a rabiyo, good evening,

Agyamankami unay, thank you very much, for the opportunity to submit a testimony. I have attached the PDF below.

Agyamankami unay, maraming maraming salamat po (thank you very much).

Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio, B.A. Biology, English Minor

Pronouns: **she/her/hers** ♀

Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, MPH Program

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Graduate Research Assistant

Population Sciences in the Pacific Program - Cancer Epidemiology

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

 **Raquinio Philippine and IPLL BOR 9-17 Testimony.pdf**
45K

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa Board of Regents

Topic: Reorganization of College of Arts Languages and Letters

Kumustakayo amin. Hello everyone.

Siak ni Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. My name is Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. I am a second-generation Filipino immigrant, born and raised on Maui. I took classes in the Philippine and Indo-Pacific (IP) Languages and Literatures Programs from 2015 to 2018, and I served as an officer on the Timpuyog Ilokano Student Organization from 2016 to 2018. Agyamankami unay, thank you very much, for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition of reorganizing or cutting these languages and literature programs**.

This issue is important to me because I did not know much about the history and specific customs and traditions of my Filipino culture growing up. I did not know how to speak my own native language like my parents and family members could. My family did not know much about their own history, either, and there were no Filipino classes at all on Maui, aside from those at UH Maui College. I enrolled in Ilokano classes because I wanted to learn my native tongue, and because there is a huge Filipino population in Hawai'i, I wanted to be able to speak my native language to others and keep my culture alive. I also enrolled in IP 364 because I wanted to learn the history of my culture. Because of these programs, I learned so much more about my own culture and its history than I ever did in my entire life. Without them, I would not have known what I do now, and I would not have this much love and pride about my culture than I do now.

These programs are essential to UH because Hawai'i is home to a diverse population of people. On UH Mānoa's "About" page, as of Fall 2019, the university is, and I quote, "the most diverse university in terms of students and faculty". All of these programs are home to a diverse array of faculty, staff, and students, and by cutting them, that diversity will also be cut.

I urge you to continue funding these programs so that prospective students will be able to learn about their culture and history and utilize that knowledge in their future careers and daily lives like I am.

Agyamankami unay, maraming maraming salamat po. Thank you very much.

Agbiag ti Filipino. Long live Filipino.

Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

UHM Dance Alumni ~

Sarah Renny <sarahannrenny@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:19 AM

To: david@hawaii.edu

Cc: david.lassner@hawaii.edu, 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

Dear UHM and those involved in deciding its' future ~

I must start this email saying there has never been a more impactful and meaningful experience in my life than my time spent at UHM dance department between 2004 & 2008.

My years studying dance at UHM have shaped me professionally, personally, and beyond. There are feelings and lessons I can not even begin to write down. They are merely understood based on experience and experience alone.

Dance saved my life.

No. This is not a catchy line for the sake of saving something. Literally. Dance saved my life.

It was the first time I was able to safely develop and execute my feelings through the power of performing arts. I've been taught to think critically, acknowledge people's differences and similarities, I've learned to listen. I've used these skills in my life, not just the stage.

I use them as a nurse. A mother. A wife. A human being.

Performing, working, moving, building relationships, failing, failing again, trying, LEARNING are all a part of the journey UHM assists students with. The professors are living and loving examples of what hard work can look like. Keep them around. They have so much to give.

Please. Please do not take these opportunities and lessons away from future students. These are great and will be different for every single foot that walks through the doors. They deserve it!

I went from RI to HI in search for this. I found it at UHM. It is special and unlike any other program in the world. I was privileged to do so, the future students that live on the islands deserve this more than anyone in the world.

They deserve THIS! I can't say it enough.

Keep the Arts. Keep Dance. Keep Theatre. Keep the momentum WE have all been working towards alive.

Our world needs it. Our world deserves it.

With Aloha and Love,

Sarah Renny, BFA, BSN, RN
Haven Movement Company



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - RANIELE REYES

RANIELE REYES <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:38 AM

Reply-To: raniele@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislin@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	RANIELE REYES
Email	raniele@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 3983676
Date	09-26-2000
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

There are other cuts that can be made to other departments that can afford it. It would be travesty to cut a program so valuable to the Hawaii community. Cutting this program only goes to show the white-washing occurring in one of the most diverse universities within the nation. Make cuts to other parts of our tuition that are no longer applicable to online education.

Signature



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



testimony re: budget cuts

Colleen Rost-Banik <crostbanik@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:42 AM

Reply-To: crostbanik@gmail.com

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

Dear UH Board of Regents,

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik. I'm an alumna from UH, Mānoa (MA in Sociology), conducted my PhD research at UH Mānoa, and am currently teaching sociology for both Honolulu CC and Windward CC. I am extremely disturbed by the proposed budget cuts to academic programs that have low enrollments. I appreciate that it sounds like Ethnic Studies has been taken off the chopping block, but I do not think that other small programs should be threatened with merger or even removal.

Yes, there are budget concerns right now for the entire state. However, during moments of crisis, it is important to expand rather than retract. This includes budgets.

The idea that courses with the fewest numbers and the departments with the fewest majors be cut relies on a market-logic of serving the most students for the least amount of money. This is not the logic that education--which is a PUBLIC GOOD--should espouse. The courses and departments with lower enrollments are also the locations in the university where relationships are the strongest. Departments of American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, Art, Theatre, Religion, Social Welfare, and Public Health cover critical topics in our world that are best learned and discussed in smaller settings. What we must remember is that education is NOT simply about information transfer into empty minds, which may happen in large lecture hall courses. Rather, good education includes building relationships and fostering environments where there is time and space for deep interaction with course material and with one another. Small class sizes foster such deep engagement. Cutting them defies good educational practices. Threatening their removal is askew from what our society needs most right now--learning about differences, understanding how oppressive conditions are generated, critical thinking about the social institutions that govern our lives, and the creativity needed to envision more socially and economically just futures.

Moreover, we need to think about the values we portray during moments of crisis. When we value departments that are self-sustaining or that make money through student enrollment or grants (whether corporate, government or foundation), we uphold the logic of capitalism, thereby valuing profit over culture, ideas, and relationships. In moments of crisis it is imperative to not exclude the culture, ideas, and relationships that are deemed less popular (whether through numbers or otherwise), for it is in these places that we find possibilities for envisioning anew, for imagining and creating a university that does not abide by the principles of monetary valuation. We have a collective responsibility to care for the people and ideas that make up these places.

While running a university is challenging and hard decisions must be made, UH could be a leader in making innovative changes rather than regressive ones. UH leadership should be doing things like:

- * demanding that state and federal legislators use tax dollars for education rather than luxury development projects (This should include advocating for supplemental taxes on second homes over \$1 million--like the 2018 proposed constitutional amendment that was thwarted by legislators so it would not pass.)
- * cutting high-paying management positions within UH.
- * cutting sports programs as they are not the prime focus of higher education's mission. UH could be truly innovative by keeping club sports but cutting all the Division I sports programs that are designed to try to bring in money but in doing so actually cost millions of dollars.

Rather than tighten the fiscal belts by merging or removing academic programs and departments, we need to demand more. Public education, including the small yet vital programs within, should not be a casualty of crisis but rather upheld as goods that everyone can access.

Respectfully,
Colleen Rost-Banik, Ph.D.



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

Emily Roveló <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:12 AM

Reply-To: emilyrovelo@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, tbrislín@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 Roveló
Email	emilyrovelo@gmail.com
Phone Number	(11421) 3478136442
Date	09-16-2020
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 IZZI
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:

It does not make sense to get rid of something that is important to the culture at your 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 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:

Emily Roveló

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [85-28 90 street](#)

State / Province: New York

Country: other

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



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Chloe Salacup

Chloe Salacup <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:08 AM

Reply-To: csalacup@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Chloe Salacup
Email	csalacup@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Date	10-12-2001
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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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Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPL. The program has grown

and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai‘i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Signature



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



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

Uilaniluaole Sanada <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:16 AM

Reply-To: uilanisan@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 Uilaniluaole Sanada
 Email uilanisan@gmail.com
 Phone Number (808) 2777380
 Date 09-16-2020
 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:

For some young adults such as myself, the arts were an integral part of my school experience and I felt that it gave me an outlet to express and compound all of the emotions and feelings that I had and turn it into something beautiful and positive.

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:

Uilaniluaole Sanada

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [444 Lunalilo Home Rd. #444](#)
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In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Joy Sanchez

Joy Sanchez <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:31 AM

Reply-To: joyss@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Joy Sanchez
Email	joyss@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 3816985
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed "essential workers" and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

It is my firm belief that the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa is a benefit to the academic community and Hawaii Community as a whole. It is a sense of pride I feel towards the program that stems from taking classes offered by the department and as a Filipino American. There is no where else on island that I can imagine studying Phillipine language. This program to connect with a language I have lost and reconect me with my culture. The removal of the BA in the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program would be a disservice and I urge those in charge of its potential dismissal to approve and support it's continuation.

Signature



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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Demiliza Saramosing

Demiliza Saramosing <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:55 AM

Reply-To: SARAM005@umn.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Demiliza Saramosing
Email	SARAM005@umn.edu
UHM Affiliation	Professional
Phone Number	(808) 3668436
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

Dear Board of Regents,

Please remove the proposal to "stop-out" the BA in Philippine Language and Culture and the re-organization of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures (IPLL) into a non-degree granting "Center."

This attack on Philippine languages is a disservice to the Filipinos of Hawai'i, who are the second largest ethnic group in these islands. The ability to access and study Philippine languages, histories and cultures at this University is very important for the empowerment of Filipinos who have undergone systemic racism since the emergence of Hawai'i's plantation economy more than a

century ago.

Filipinos have migrated to Hawai'i because of a history of colonization which is tied to the history of Native Hawaiian's colonization. The Philippines is currently under dire political-economic stress and it is crucial to maintain Hawaii-based Filipino people's capacity to remember, learn, connect and help our communities back in the Philippines.

Filipinos migrate to Hawaii and become part of the working class. Assimilating into the dominant economic culture has been the survival mechanism of our community. But that is why we need the Philippine language and literature program BA to help undergraduate Filipinos access the history and languages of the Philippines so they can speak to their parents and relatives.

While I attend school on the continent, my younger sisters had the benefit and the opportunity to partake in Cebuano Language Acquisition and Immersion for the New Generation (LAING). This community-based language program, bolstered by UH Manoa's language professors and community leaders, has helped them learn our native tongue of Cebuano. In turn, they have shared resources with me--which is of utmost importance due to Hawai'i being the only place in the US to offer specifically Cebuano training courses. My sisters and I were born and raised in Hawai'i but were highly discouraged to speak our native tongue in the public school system due to the harassment and mocking of Philippine languages and the praise of the English language. We were made to feel ashamed of who we were as Filipinas based in Hawai'i and have endured the harmful impacts of assimilation. It is through this community-based program that has helped us reconnect with our Bisaya/Cebuano/Filipino heritage and cultures and it has allowed us to understand, appreciate and speak to our relatives in Hawai'i and back in the Philippines. This program has helped to jumpstart conversations I've had with my family to understand the history of our displacement, the push-pull factors, of why our family had migrated to Hawai'i in the first place.

Growing up as a Filipina in Hawai'i, I learned nothing of my history and identity within Hawai'i's K-12 DOE system. Unfortunately, my own story is not unique as so many people from our Filipino community also experienced this. However, this does not have to be the case for our future generations of undergraduate students and community members who now more readily have access to these programs that teaches them what it means to take pride in Philippine histories, languages and cultures. To threaten to stop-out this program at the University of Hawai'i is devastating and detrimental to the mental health and cultural human rights of Filipinos in Hawai'i, particularly its young people. Filipinos have contributed so much to the social and economic justice in Hawai'i, as workers who organized against the plantation oligarchy. Yet, to witness the University diminish our access to our history and culture is disrespectful to the contributions of the Filipino people who helped to improve the quality of life of everyone in these islands.

Please remove the proposal to "stop out" the Philippine Languages and Literatures and do not re-organize the

Department of IPLLL into a non-degree "Center."

Instead, please fund and support these programs to the fullest extent, because the University must be relevant to the 2nd largest ethnic group in Hawai'i. If you seek to be a University that deals with the post-covid economy, you must fully support the growth of educational programs like Philippine Languages and Literatures and the Department of IPLLL, in order to empower this population to be active and informed participants of our islands' recovery.

Sincerely,
Demiliza Saramosing, M.A.

Signature



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

Sadie Sarkissian <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:51 AM

Reply-To: mileka17@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, iezzzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu



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

Name Sadie Sarkissian
 Email mileka17@yahoo.com
 Phone Number (8082223698)
 Date 09-16-2020
 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:

please no cuts to this. This venue needs to be in full swing. This is much needed and loved to all of us!!! This is a benchmark to educate and enjoy. At a time as now, we need to promote Positive. I strongly oppose any cuts to this sector. Dance and Theatre go hand in hand. Beneficial from Keiki to Kupuna. This is Hawaii nei. Thank You
 Sadie Sarkissian

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:

Sadie Sarkissian

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: [98a Kahako St](#)
State / Province: kailua,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.

Becca Schmidt <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 3:58 AM

Reply-To: becca@thethorn.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, 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 Becca Schmidt
 Email becca@thethorn.net
 Phone Number (865) 6032582
 Date 11-07-1986
 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:

Dance is a vital part of the arts community that this world desperately needs right now.

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:

Becca Schmidt

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

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

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Proposed Changes to Women's Studies Programs

Amanda Shaw <ashaw37@hawaii.edu>
 To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:20 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Please accept this letter in support of the Department of Women's Studies (WS) and its degree programs.

I am currently an affiliated researcher in this Department. I also work closely with the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women as well as with many international organizations and women's rights groups globally. I specifically sought out an affiliation with UHM Women's Studies given the expertise found within this department on transnational approaches to women's/gender issues, the expertise on Hawai'i-Pacific and because of the vibrant and interconnected number of WS affiliated scholars working throughout the university. My own research on gender inequalities in Hawai'i's food system would have been *impossible* without the scholarship of WS scholars at UH.

I come from a university context – the London School of Economic and Political Science (LSE) -- in which **there were also questions about the “proper” institutional home for Women's/Gender studies** within the university. Various linkages were proposed with other departments (e.g. Sociology) but the Gender Institute – now Department of Gender Studies – successful made the case for retaining an independent (and interdependent) institutional identity. The case was successful, in part, because the University realized that the proposed linkages didn't make sense to either staff or students, as students were interested in specific gender/women's studies issues and not as much in the areas offered by sociology. It is unclear at present how similarly top-down proposals to link WS and Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) would benefit or make sense to either department or to students.

While women's studies *is* inter-disciplinary and surely much can be made from increased relationships with IS, retaining an independent institutional identity is critical to enabling a strong profile and therefore to recruiting high calibre staff and students. **Demoting WS to a second-class entity** is problematic because of how areas associated with women or in which many women work are often devalued; moreover, this doesn't appear to, in itself, represent a sound financial strategy or strategy for increasing enrolment. Please, could you address in your next meeting how having Women's Studies “work closely with” Interdisciplinary Studies will increase the number of WS majors and contribute to University cost savings?

Women and gender studies degrees are of growing interest to U.S. and international students and with a renewed strategy and support, the prospects for Women's Studies majors at UHM can surely be enhanced. WS graduates have exciting job prospects across a range of fields and bring positive social value to the contexts where they work. As a WS/gender studies graduate myself, I know that there is a growing and unmet demand for gender analysis skills in the field of consulting with government projects locally as well as within the international community. **Reducing WS's profile at a time in which demand for these skills is growing is short-sighted.**

In conclusion, Women's Studies as well as Ethnic Studies, Theatre/Dance, Religion and other areas are critical to a balanced and representative state university, which may be the only option many Hawai'i students have for a university education. **As a public institution, any changes to the University must be looked at through not only through a financial lens but through an equity one as well.** It is indeed understandable that restructuring/transitions have been needed at the university and that COVID-19 is presenting major financial and human/social challenges to university life broadly. However, these are *separate* issues and should be approached as such.

Departments like WS hold critical expertise that is needed to ensure that recovery from the pandemic is gender-aware in light of impacts on women's jobs, health and time burdens due to, for example, increased domestic violence during shelter-in-place and increased unpaid care workloads brought on by lack of childcare, amongst many others. The risk is that by **reducing or curtailing the intellectual capacity of**

departments like WS it is not only the UH community that will be impacted but our COVID-19 response in Hawai'i overall.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Dr. Amanda Shaw,

Affiliated Researcher, Department of Women's Studies

Lecturer, Department of Political Science

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

ashaw37@hawaii.edu or 808.429.5310



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

testimony in support of the Department of Women's Studies

Dawn Sueoka <sueokad@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:08 AM

Dear Board of Regents,

I'm Dawn Sueoka, a librarian at UH Mānoa. As Congressional Papers Archivist, I work with the archives of Hawai'i's post-statehood delegates to the U.S. Congress.

I'm writing in support of the Department of Women's Studies. Women's Studies, through its critical engagement with issues of gender, race, class, and empire, empowers students with the language, framework, and skills necessary to create just and resilient futures for communities in Hawai'i and beyond. At a time of transformation in the ways that we think about gender, about our economy, about policing, about race, about land, I look to departments like Women's studies and Ethnic Studies for leadership, not a diminished role.

For these reasons, I support the Women's Studies Department's remaining autonomous and free from cuts. And I support other programs facing cuts, among them the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Department of Theater and Dance, and the Matsunaga Institute.

Mahalo,

Dawn Sueoka

--

Dawn Sueoka
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Congressional Papers Archivist
[University Archives & Manuscripts Department](#)
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library
2550 McCarthy Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822
808-956-6995



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Qyle James Tabladillo

Qyle James Tabladillo <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 1:43 AM

Reply-To: qyle@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Qyle James Tabladillo
Email	qyle@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 6884048
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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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Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

Philippine Languages and Literatures program is the largest within the Dept. of IPLL. The program has grown and maintained its growth with many majors and graduates, course offerings, and full enrollment for the majority of our classes. Currently, we have 30 majors and 25 minors in the Ilokano and Tagalog program combined. Consistent with previous semesters, we currently offer 31 courses (17 IP, 4 ILO, and 10 FIL) which have strong enrollments totaling 561 students. The courses offered in the program have multiple focus designations which fulfill the General Education requirements and focus requirements of the University. Every semester, we have multiple sections of several IP courses at maximum capacity, averaging about 20 students per class every semester. This semester alone we had 60+ students waitlisted for our IP courses and we were unable to offer them seats because we were not permitted to open up more sections or hire more lecturers. This record shows that the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program helps our students fulfill their language requirement and other GE requirements. In addition, full enrollment in our courses shows that we are not a cost center, but rather we draw in many tuition-paying students to our many popular courses.

The cost-cutting policies that the University is trying to implement have community-wide repercussions. It reveals a larger societal practice of devaluing certain people, cultures, and experiences. Recent data reveals that Pacific Islanders and Filipinos have the highest COVID-19 contraction because they are deemed “essential workers” and therefore are forced to work during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, Filipinos are frontline workers and are overrepresented in the healthcare industry and in service jobs in the tourist industry. This is why there is an extreme health crisis in these communities. In addition, the University is trying to remove the Philippine Languages and Literatures program, which provides direct training for students in maintaining literacy in their heritage languages. This is not the way to support their lives and sacrifices. In order for Hawai'i to sustain itself now and recover in the future, it is necessary to support Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Kānaka Maoli who are suffering disproportionately during this pandemic. The pandemic makes the failures of this colonial capitalist system glaringly apparent, especially their lack of support for the basic needs of the people. We urge the university not to contribute to these failings but rather lead by example in sustaining the people and aiding in the recovery of our communities.

Additional Comments

Make budget cuts from another program or department that wouldn't have such major community-repercussions.

Signature



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.

Sarah Valeri <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 3:34 AM

Reply-To: sarahreenevaleri@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	Sarah Valeri
Email	sarahreenevaleri@gmail.com
Phone Number	(646) 2840029
Date	11-04-1975
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 creative arts therapist I often have conversations with social workers and mental health practitioners who badly want to understand how to incorporate arts into their service. Arts are our perpetual form of self healing. Dance and theater are essentially to our mental and physical well being. During such traumatic times people need practices that support the transformative experience

of grief, fear, and courage within the body. Without a transformative act of the body, these painful experiences make us brittle and easy to break.

Instead of cutting arts programs you should expand them and make them requirements for your students involved in any medical, psychological, or anyone who will be working as a caretaker in some form.

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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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:

Sarah Valeri

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Brooklyn
State / Province: New York
Country: United States

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



In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa - Jahziel Vilotia

Jahziel Vilotia <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:13 AM

Reply-To: jahziel@hawaii.edu

To: david@hawaii.edu, mbruno@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu, parnade@hawaii.edu, tbrislins@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, jknotson@hawaii.edu

In Support of the Philippine Languages & Literatures Program at UH Mānoa

Name	Jahziel Vilotia
Email	jahziel@hawaii.edu
UHM Affiliation	Student
Phone Number	(808) 6827397
Date	06-28-2000
Letter Heading	To: UHM President, David 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

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reorganization of CALL, the elimination of the Philippine Languages and Literatures Program, and the general defunding of the Arts & Humanities currently proposed at UHM.

The Philippine Languages and Literatures Program offers two specializations, in Ilokano and Tagalog languages and has been in existence since the 1970s. These became degree-granting programs in the early 2000s servicing the educational needs of heritage language learners and non-heritage language learners alike. Recognizing the importance of the Program within the Academy as a service institution, the Board of Regents granted the BA Program permanent status in 2013. The BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures is founded on the recognition of the academic, professional, and personal needs of the community. Ilokano and Tagalog are two of the languages most commonly spoken by Filipinos in Hawai'i, where they make up 25% of the state's population and 11% of the UH Mānoa student body. There is a larger community need for Ilokano and Tagalog speakers, particularly for professionals in the areas of education, business, health, and social and legal services trained in Philippine history and cultures.

Cutting our BA in Philippine Languages and Literatures will not save the University money. Since its birth, the

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Signature



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



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Opposition to the Proposed Option to Stop-out the Ethnic Studies BA

Sarah Wiebe <swiebe@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:52 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose the proposed option to stop-out the Ethnic Studies BA.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's (UHM) Department of Ethnic Studies (ES) grew out of the national civil rights, anti-war and student movements and the Hawai'i anti-eviction, land, labor, and sovereignty movements. It was created in response to a mandate of Hawai'i's struggles to celebrate diverse histories and perpetuate the legacies of Hawai'i's diverse peoples and engage with communities through teaching and research.

As a faculty member in the College of Social Sciences, I have witnessed how ES produces new knowledge for social change that centers the values, cultures, and ecologies of Hawai'i and Oceania. Given the growth in their majors, the recent additions in Black Studies, digital futures, sustainability and environmental justice classes and research foci; the combined ES and College of Education Bachelor's and Master's Degree (BAM); and the relaunch of the Center for Oral History under ES, they have expanded their reach across the college, campus and wider Hawaiian communities.

It is unacceptable that the Mānoa Budget Team (MBT) has targeted Ethnic Studies for an option to "stop-out" our 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 such an ethnically diverse state, that an option to "stop-out" ES is even being considered is tone-deaf to this moment of national racial reckoning. I agree with the ES community that targeting Ethnic Studies under the cover of the pandemic-induced budget crisis is nothing short of institutional racism.

Very much look forward to seeing a flourishing Department of Ethnic Studies now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Marie Wiebe

--

Sarah Marie Wiebe | Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2424 Maile Way, Saunders 633B

Honolulu, HI 96822

(t) 808-956-3688 | (e) swiebe@hawaii.edu

(w) www.sarahmariewiebe.com



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

Ingeborg Wilking <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 5:58 AM

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, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@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 Ingeborg Wilking
 Phone Number (507) 947-3997
 Date 09-16-2020
 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: Hawaii needs 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.

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:

Ingeborg Wilking

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: 46182 Hilltop Ln. Nicollet

State / Province: MN

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.

Bob Wilking <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:01 AM

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, tbrisl@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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

Name: Bob Wilking
 Phone Number: (507) 947-3997
 Date: 09-16-2020
 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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-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: Save 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.

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:

Bob Wilking

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: 46182 Hilltop Ln Nicollet

State / Province: MN

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.

Marilyn Wood <noreply@jotform.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:14 AM

Reply-To: ohyank@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, 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 Marilyn Wood
 Email ohyank@aol.com
 Phone Number (614) 3895388
 Date 09-16-2020
 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 dance mom of many years please retain this important 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:

Marilyn Wood

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Address

City: Beaver falls

State / Province: Pa

Country: United States

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Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

Your Name (required) *

L. Ayu Saraswati

Your Organization (optional)

Women's Studies--UHM

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

luhp@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

OTHER

OTHER (Please describe) *

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

The UH-system President Lassner has recently and repeatedly stated his new slogan, "We can't be all things for all people." We in the Women's Studies department at UH-Mānoa finds this deeply troubling and concerning. This statement that sums up his vision for the new university post-pandemic inevitably provokes the question, "who are the people he is willing to leave out?" Carefully reading his statement titled, "Post-Pandemic Hawaii and the University of Hawaii," we are stunned to see the glaring omission of gender issues. The pandemic has revealed the gender earthquake that the crisis has caused, from childcare to domestic violence, and yet, the university blatantly ignores this issue that sits at the center of this crisis. This erasure of gender issues is in a stark contrast to the state's attempt to weigh in on some feminist voices summed up in the report, "A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19."

Such an omission, coupled with his slogan, certainly makes us wonder: what does this mean, then, for the future of Women's Studies and other programs such as Ethnic Studies that have functioned as the "conscience"

of the university for our commitment to social justice? Is this what guides the recent recommendations for programs across campus? That is, rather than directly addressing the budget crisis head-on, crunching numbers carefully, the President seems to want to crush programs (and our morale in the process), suggesting the elimination of programs such as in the Theater and Dance department, for instance.

As a department, even as we are being institutionally starved by only having 4 FTE (full-time faculty), Women's Studies has managed not only to survive, but also to thrive. Our faculty member's excellence in teaching and research have been acknowledged by various state and national awards, and we have long been considered to be in the top ranks of Women's Studies departments across the country. The most recent data of 2020 shows that Women's Studies serves a wide range of students, 5,362 student semester hour, to be exact.

Despite our successes in the midst of challenges constantly thrown at us throughout the decades, we have yet to receive the recognition and support that we need and deserve. Instead, we arrive here at the very questionable vision of our UH President who is very keen on serving only those specific group of people he deemed worthy, those who can build our economy, as if the state of our economy is independent from the daily lives of people of all gender, sexuality, race, nationality, and ability. Without explicit commitment from the institution to serve women, Black, Indigenous and People of color, and workers, the institution will default to its institutional debts to the more powerful groups.

How is excluding people already marginalized in our community project a cost-saving? Isn't it time that in the new university that the UH President envisions, that UH commits to making a priority gender issues and supporting people of all genders, races, sexualities, classes, and abilities, in all of our classrooms and curriculum? We strongly believe so. Now is the time.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Actions

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Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

Your Name (required) *

Merle Pak

Your Organization (optional)

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

kiyopak@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

OTHER

OTHER (Please describe) *

Item VI.B Budget and Finance Report

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

See attached document.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[Testimony for Board of Regents Meeting.docx](#) (12.9 kB)

Actions

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Testimony for Board of Regents Meeting
September 17, 2020

In Support of the UH Ethnic Studies Program
For Agenda Item VI.B Budget and Finance
Submitted on September 15, 2020

Aloha,

My name is Merle Pak and I am a retiree who graduated from the UH university system. I was involved in the 1971 fight to save the Ethnic Studies Program, along with many students, faculty, and community members.

I believe our youth, our future leaders, should have a well-rounded education in order to bring Hawai'i and the world forward as we face many challenges. The UH Manoa Ethnic Studies Program serves to create active, critical thinkers who can rise to those challenges by educating students about diversity, love of our various cultures, and appreciation of our history as a multi-ethnic community in the middle of the Pacific.

I understand that public education funding is extremely difficult in these times. But to endanger the autonomy of the Ethnic Studies Program in the name of saving money is not right. The university gladly supports the departments that contribute to research grants, business, technology, engineering, etc. But what good is science if it is for personal glory, and not for the advancement of humanity? Understanding what makes our unique community vibrant is essential for all disciplines.

Why are programs considered valuable simply based on the number of degree candidates? When I was a UH Manoa student, we had to take courses in English, Math, Science, History, and Sociology, in order to get a well-balanced understanding before deciding on a major. To me, the Ethnic Studies Program offers non-degree candidates an experience to broaden their horizons, especially around the issues that give rise to social and racial justice movements.

Please do not continually consider Ethnic Studies for the chopping block whenever there is a fiscal crisis. It should remain an integral part of a well-rounded and balanced university education.

Mahalo,

Merle Pak
Kane'ohe, Hawai'i



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Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

Your Name (required) *

Jaret KC Leong

Your Organization (optional)

Mānoa Staff Senate (MSS) | Chair

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

msschair@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

OTHER

OTHER (Please describe) *

Budget, Proposed Changes to the University, and Board Resolution 20-03 (reference)

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[Mānoa Staff Senate \(MSS\) UH BOR.pdf](#) (137.7 kB)

Actions

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MĀNOA
STAFF SENATE

Mānoa Staff Senate
Chair

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

TO: Benjamin Kudo, Chair
UH Board of Regents

CC: Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

FROM: Jaret KC Leong, Mānoa Staff Senate Chair

Dear University Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I want to express my frustration over the lack of communication and “shared governance” with the staff at Mānoa regarding the proposed changes to this University. I appreciated the approved amendments made by Regent Acoba, which read: *“and in the consideration, planning, and formulation of any action, the Administration will consult with faculty, staff, and student organizations in a cooperative and collaborative manner and approach, taking into account the interests of the individuals, groups, and entities involved or affected.”* Unfortunately, as of today, the Mānoa Staff Senate has not been contacted by UH Administration. Nor have we received any clear process of how this will be handled and in what timeframe. I’m equally troubled that the students (ASUH and GSO), our lifeblood of this University, have also not been included in this process.

I am respectfully requesting assurances from the BOR that the staff of this University, the same individuals working non-stop to keep this University running, be included in the process - and from an early stage, not after decisions have already been made. I’m merely asking the BOR to ensure Administration follows your directive in the approved Board Resolution 20-03, which states: *“work with faculty, students, and staff to seek the broadest possible consensus for the greater good in order to maintain the integrity and continued functioning of the University.”*

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Staff Senate
2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall 202
Honolulu, HI 96822
Email | uhmstaff@hawaii.edu
Website | manoa.hawaii.edu/staffsenate

Additionally, I am requesting that communications are given to the staff directly. I'm fortunate that my Dean and Department Chair are incredibly transparent and have included staff. Unfortunately, that is not the same across the campus. I want to ensure that all staff is allowed to provide meaningful feedback, especially in highly-impacted programs. I appreciate Provost Bruno, including staff in his **Mānoa Budget Follow Up Approach**, Bullet Point #1. However, I'm concerned that staff is excluded from Bullet Point #3: "Following this meeting, David and I will conduct small, focused meetings with leadership and faculty from highly-impacted programs."

Furthermore, the proposed process lacks the specific reference to each shared governance group and when they will be included in the process. It's my interpretation of the BOR's directive that we should be included at the beginning phase, not at the point of consultation. Quite frankly, that is when decisions are already finalized.

I want to express my appreciation for Provost Bruno for making all the recommendations and responses publicly available. Though, shared governance, for me, goes beyond informing us. Shared Governance is the inclusion within the process.

Finally, I'm confident that we can work together on finding the right solution for this University. The President and Provost had the foresight to include staff in important committees, such as the Mānoa Reorganization Phase 2 Functional Team and Mānoa COVID-19 Working Teams. In those committees, the staff has demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with fellow faculty, students, and UH Administrators. I'm eagerly awaiting our opportunity to contribute.

Aloha,

Jaret KC Leong  Digitally signed by Jaret KC Leong
Date: 2020.09.16 02:01:54 -10'00'

Mānoa Staff Senate Chair

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Staff Senate
2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall 202
Honolulu, HI 96822
Email | uhmstaff@hawaii.edu
Website | manoa.hawaii.edu/staffsenate



UNIVERSITY
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Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

Your Name (required) *

Tung T. Hoang

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

tongh@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

OTHER

OTHER (Please describe) *

Testimony in opposition to the reorganization provided by the Manoa Budget Team on 9/11/20 suggesting to "stop-out Microbiology MS/PhD Graduate Program"

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[BOR Testimony \(Microbiology Graduate Program\).pdf](#) (435.5 kB)

Actions

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September 15, 2020

RE: Appeal to the BOR to not stop-out the Microbiology Graduate Program

Dear members of the Board of Regents,

Since starting my position here at UHM over 18 years ago, then as an Assistant Professor, and until now as Professor, I have never personally addressed the BoR on a university issue. However, I now find myself appealing to you for the first time to not even consider supporting in any way a “stop-out” of the Microbiology Graduate Program. As a 9-months appointed instructional faculty member with significant undergraduate teaching in both the Microbiology graduate and undergraduate programs, I have secured millions of dollars for UHM through eight funded NIH grants as a PI of several major projects. I can say with certainty that none of this would be possible without the Microbiology graduate students I have trained in my lab - some of whom are now professors at other major universities, with another working for the FBI, plus doctors of medicine and dentistry, etc. Additionally, the graduate students in Microbiology are major contributors to my recently selected \$3-million DTRA grant, scheduled to be funded to UHM, and my major \$1.7-Million NIH R01 grant currently in review. Without our Microbiology graduate program and our students, I would have left this university a long time ago because I would not have been able to train graduate students in research techniques they required to participate in the projects my grants funded; I would simply now be at another institution training graduate students in my field.

The Department of Microbiology has survived 70 years, during which time countless undergraduate and graduate students have been trained. We continue education, training, and research even though we have for more than a decade faced significant hurdles that have in large part essentially crippled our capacity to provide the education, training, and research opportunities we all strive daily to deliver. This has been particularly so over the last 10-15 years. In just the past 10 years, example, we have lost over half of our faculty through two retirements, two deaths, one negative tenure outcome, and one faculty who left science altogether. The remaining four faculty and one instructor have been running two successful, meaning with substantial enrollments, undergraduate programs (BA/BS in both Microbiology, and Cell and Molecular Biology), and our Microbiology graduate program, while maintaining significant funding to run our respective research programs.

The UHM administration has enabled just one position to be replaced, not because our Microbiology programs are not impactful, or because of our inability to attract and select world-class scientists, but all but one of the searches we have recommended candidates for have failed once the negotiations were handed off to levels far beyond the Search Committees! In short, although we were given permission to recruit, candidates never managed to secure a final offer,

and all but one of the searches we were allowed to conduct were canceled. Two such searches were canceled with the emergence of the existing pandemic, but one of those searches was for a virologist! In that respect, I have served on four failed searches for a virologist in the past seven years. In each case the top candidates were never able to secure an offer that could be signed before the search was canceled. Microbiology hires were completed in other units, though. I should add that microbiologists appointed to 9-month I-faculty positions in the then Department of Microbiology, now part of the School of Life Sciences, teach undergraduate and graduate courses, bring in funding, and provide research and training opportunities to undergraduates through externally and internally funded programs.

The total graduate student numbers in any unit is heavily dependent on the number of research faculty. Through more than a decade of failed searches that have obviously not offset faculty losses, we are now faced with a fraction of the graduate students we long had. Incredibly, the small size of our graduate program is cited as a reason to stop-out the program altogether! It is a ludicrous situation that has been both predicted and predictable for a decade. I contend here that 9-month appointed faculty have more graduate students **per faculty** than many microbiologists in other units, especially those staffed by research faculty with 11-month appointments. The solution is quite simple: provide the support to replace faculty and our graduate enrollment will increase. For example, the eight faculty we once had in the Department of Microbiology hosted approximately 40 graduate students, far cry from the 10 or so now hosted by three research active faculty. No cost savings are provided in the proposed “stop-out” of the Microbiology Graduate program; there can only be minimal to zero because the graduate program is run by 9-month appointed instructional faculty; no positions will be saved.

I close by saying that we offer the only Microbiology undergraduate degrees (BA/BS) in Hawai‘i, and that the training we provide in microbiology is essential in many disciplines and jobs, both in and outside Hawai‘i. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we will see increased interest and demand for training in microbiology. Our faculty is still here teaching two undergraduate programs (Microbiology, and Molecular and Cell Biology). We must train Microbiology graduate students to continue our well-funded research programs, and we need Microbiology graduate students and their expertise to teach and train undergraduates in our undergraduate laboratory courses. Our world-class Microbiology undergraduate program needs your support. Thank you for your time!



Tung T. Hoang



Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

Your Name (required) *

Hawaii Community College ASUH Student Government

Your Organization (optional)

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

hawccsg1@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

BOR VII.B. Approval of Amendments to RP 11.203, Naming of Campus Improvements and Academic Programs

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 16, 2020

Honorable Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,

While the college community at Hawai'i Community College appreciates your efforts at making the budget cut decisions a campus community collaboration, the ASUH Hawaii Community College needs to report that what was intended to be a collaborative effort on the upcoming budget cuts for Hawai'i Community College, yet again became another example of the systematic coercion by the administration to have a heavy-handed approach to all decision making. During the budget cut proposal meetings during the week of September 4-11, 2020, it has become abundantly clear that there was an extreme level of distortion taking place in order to present a false front of cooperation and compliance. While the participants sacrificed time and energy in this effort, and gave this serious reflection and commitment, collaboration was not honored. Our feedback was watered down and distorted to paint a positive picture of the administrators and their summary sent to Ms. Erika Lacro, Vice President for Community Colleges is basically a false and diluted claim of what went on during that week of meetings.

Many of those-including faculty and staff- who participated felt that the entire exercise was futile and just another example of the systemic toxic environment the administration has inflicted on the HawCC Ohana. These are just a few highlights of the maladies:

- Distortion of the narrative summary to suit administration's purposes.
- Chokehold of dominance instigated as standard operating procedures to push acceptance of the summary.
- Administration's culture of mistrust and insecurities inflicted upon the entire college community, translated into a culture of fear, whereby anyone who speaks up is fearful of losing their job or other retaliatory measures.
- Inaccuracies and a watered down summary of the intensive work and efforts of the college community's sincere efforts to make those cuts.

The majority of the campus community recommended:

- Closure of the Ko Educational Center in Honokaa.
- Administrative Payroll cuts.
- Require Department and Division Chair to teach more classes than just none to two as is the current situation.
- Performance evaluations and review of the entire administrative staff, and an investigation conducted on the illegal, unethical, and retaliatory activities of one while being placed on unpaid administrative leave.
- Sell seven portables that have been sitting there for at least three years, unassembled. These were intended to house administrators
- Many more very serious and well thought out serious budget cuts.

ASUH-HCC student government recently participated in a "Training and Onboarding on UH Policies Regarding CSOs and ASUH and Other University Protocols." The "elephant in the room" was further exposed by the administration's crushing domineering management style reflected in the exercise of sharing and prioritizing our responsibilities and objectives. The exercise further detailed the ubiquitous and stifling influence of mistrust that pervades the entire campus. Our voices were not heard, and we were basically told that we needed to change and find a way to work with our administrators, who we have come to recognize as exercising a reign of serious corruption, lack of integrity, despotic retaliation, and a climate of terror. We have also stepped forward to share that it is the entire campus-faculty, staff, and student leadership- that recognizes the problem and though the faculty and staff are too fearful to speak, we guarantee you that they also feel the way we do.

We are reaching out once again for support during these especially trying times. All of the student government representatives want to give the best possible experiences and opportunities to all our constituents. Of course, student government tries to find ways to support our peers. The toxic mismanagement needs to be addressed as soon as possible, rather than closeted in silent desperation. Please reconsider our dilemma, which has been a cry for help over these long years, and still goes unanswered.

Because of the level of breakdown taking place at Hawai'i Community College, ASUH Hawai'i Community College recommends that the Board of Regents conducting an audit of fiscal, personnel and EEO non-compliant hiring practices, financial aid, and campus climate.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[Testimony to BOR.docx](#) (18.2 kB)

Actions

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BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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

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

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:02 AM

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, iezzii@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@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, tbrislina@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzii@hawaii.edu, efisher@hawaii.edu, wessendo@hawaii.edu

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

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.

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.

9/14/2020

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

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

Board of Regents Meeting

September 17, 2020

On Time Testimony Submitted via jotform.com

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

The preceding Comment Form was completed by the following individuals.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. John Savio | 42. Casey Avaunt |
| 2. Michelle Huynh | 43. Amanda Botinelly |
| 3. Elizabeth Young | 44. Inai Palomera |
| 4. Rachel Sorensen | 45. Jessica Orlando |
| 5. J. Maki'ilei Ishihara | 46. I-Ling Liu |
| 6. Malia Yamamoto | 47. Jenna Gerdson |
| 7. Travis Seifman | 48. Traci Hazlegrove |
| 8. Andrea Gordon | 49. Noelle Poole-Isenberg |
| 9. Jorin You t | 50. Diane Young |
| 10. Lauren Mau | 51. Olivia Bornstein |
| 11. Lani Kwon | 52. Kaili Hamada |
| 12. Ren Nakamura | 53. Tim Miller |
| 13. Nicole Young | 54. Hepsy Zhang |
| 14. Keala Fung | 55. Erin Tsue |
| 15. Estella Berg | 56. Christine Maxwell |
| 16. Katie Faulkner | 57. Madelyn Boge |
| 17. Rachael Uyeno | 58. Kelly Chung |
| 18. Mari Nordeen | 59. Michael Hardy |
| 19. Christine Chang | 60. Jeffrey McClure |
| 20. Brandon Estill | 61. Monika Haar |
| 21. Nicholas Brown | 62. Brooke Johnson |
| 22. Douglas Haban | 63. Rae Lewark |
| 23. Yu Noguchi | 64. Daryl Bonilla |
| 24. Blair Reddish | 65. Paz Tanjuaquio |
| 25. Toni Pasion | 66. Cassie Bagay |
| 26. Chris Doi | 67. Keiara Lewis |
| 27. Lucie Knor | 68. Brandy McDougall |
| 28. Jana Julian | 69. Kale'a Raymond |
| 29. Kathryn Hsu-Bishop | 70. Frank Katasse |
| 30. Michael Leyton | 71. Aissa Yazzie |
| 31. Caitie Gonzalez | 72. Marley Aiu |
| 32. Julie Zaydfudim | 73. Allen Cole |
| 33. Chasity-Mae Real | 74. Emily Wright |
| 34. Hans Meyer | 75. Momi Morgan |
| 35. Anonymous | 76. Sean Nagamatsu |
| 36. Anne Faiella | 77. Matthew Dubroff |
| 37. Kristy Allman | 78. Anthony Blackwell |
| 38. Kripa Bhagat | 79. Ramon Rodriguez |
| 39. Ka Yee Luk | 80. Alliyah-Lei Dizon |
| 40. Marcie Munnerlyn | 81. Julia Sitch |
| 41. Marcie Munnerlyn | 82. Cynthia Franklin |

**Board of Regents Meeting
September 17, 2020**

On Time Testimony Submitted via jotform.com

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

The preceding Comment Form was completed by the following individuals.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 83. Jeneca Arnold | 124. Allysha Chung |
| 84. Chris Boge | 125. Katherine Ganel |
| 85. Alex Miller | 126. Lily Hi'ilani Okimura |
| 86. Isabella Eugenio | 127. Aaron Vogel |
| 87. Erika Sanchez | 128. Ayda Espinoza |
| 88. Darsh Dave | 129. Kathryn Hoffmann |
| 89. Laurel Mei-Singh Mei-Singh | 130. Anela Akiu |
| 90. Audrey Beaton | 131. Brandon Ragasa |
| 91. Grant Meersand | 132. Hunter Kaye |
| 92. Jacqueline Callejo | 133. Macey Rio |
| 93. Chloe-Mae Talkington | 134. Shoshana Isaacs |
| 94. Kealani Eldredge | 135. Claire Shubeck |
| 95. Alicia Ruelke | 136. Nicole Williams |
| 96. Ferryle Paguirigan | 137. Christian Grado |
| 97. Isabella Hereon | 138. Lisa Beams |
| 98. Nicole Bulatao | 139. Frances Dolim |
| 99. Julie Labagnara | 140. Sage BRODY |
| 100. Kerrigan Adkins | 141. Ajanee Wineglass |
| 101. Celia Chun | 142. Nathan Gallagher |
| 102. Manuel Diaz | 143. Jesse Hoyhtya |
| 103. Tehya | 144. Joanna Savio |
| 104. Keala Armstrong | 145. Sammie Choy |
| 105. Quinn Goo | 146. Ashley Nguyen |
| 106. Shanel Crawford | 147. Guoqian Li |
| 107. Christine Remigio | 148. Maile Speetjens |
| 108. Carla Guajardo | 149. Jeremiah Chaney |
| 109. Jordan Jackson | 150. Tyler Medina |
| 110. Noah Sanchez | 151. Ashley Gomez |
| 111. celina auld | 152. Samantha Spinner |
| 112. J Kanda | 153. Marjori-jean Matsushita |
| 113. Ruth Brown | 154. Areerat Worawongwasu |
| 114. Vasiliki Berkman | 155. Kenneth Sousie |
| 115. Isabella Dixon | 156. Yilan Hu |
| 116. Xyrene Faavi | 157. Andrew Corley |
| 117. Asia Sommer | 158. Samantha Siller |
| 118. Keri Yokoyama | 159. Leilani Contreras Del Toro |
| 119. Alexis Gallegos | 160. Donna Brown |
| 120. Emanuel Mathews | 161. Rebecca Maria
Goldschmidt |
| 121. Ashley Koza | 162. Juana Dahl |
| 122. Peiling Kao | 163. Joshua Rasheed Smith |
| 123. Hana Stumpf | |

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The preceding Comment Form was completed by the following individuals.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 164. Emily Schwartz | 205. Katerina Belmatch |
| 165. Anela Anglen | 206. Neil Garcia |
| 166. Daniel Kelin | 207. Rain Wright |
| 167. Julianna Kessel | 208. Audrey Castaneda Walker |
| 168. Marisela Martinez | 209. Richard Jr Yamashita |
| 169. Mang Gwen Chan | 210. Richard Akamine |
| 170. Saniya Sripada | 211. Wendy Koch |
| 171. Maria del Pilar Herron | 212. Krystal Sakuda |
| 172. Lynn Chealander | 213. Makenzie Stang |
| 173. Vanessa Brooks | 214. Tara Morisato |
| 174. Charlaïne Katsuyoshi | 215. Katy Luo |
| 175. Yarey Rodriguez Wong | 216. Paola Ornelas |
| 176. Yi An | 217. Andrea Vazquez |
| 177. Ana Cajiga | 218. Hannah Manshel |
| 178. Ya-chu Chang | 219. Mariquita Clement |
| 179. Adrienne Seet | 220. Lindsey Leong |
| 180. Katrina Karl | 221. Darcy Naganuma |
| 181. Uyen Vu | 222. Francis Vilar |
| 182. Margot Fitzsimmons | 223. Tiffany Sabado |
| 183. Malia Wessel | 224. Hannah White |
| 184. Mire Koikari | 225. Tahirih Perez |
| 185. Jon Bennett | 226. Kaitlyn Bass |
| 186. Ann Smith | 227. Alexis Chong Tim |
| 187. Alma Torres-Jauregui | 228. Katherine Ganel |
| 188. Katelyn Wyatt | 229. Kourtney Yadao |
| 189. Charmian Wells | 230. Micah Higa |
| 190. Ryan Lee | 231. Francis Valerio |
| 191. Ashlyn Healey | 232. Mary Kattenhorn |
| 192. Kiana Risso | 233. Sandra Finney |
| 193. Micah Miyashiro | 234. Davis Carineo |
| 194. Koby Ichimasa | 235. Jostlyn Watson |
| 195. Cody Oshiro | 236. Christianne Moss |
| 196. Kylie Nakano | 237. Shannon Yamamoto |
| 197. Stephanie Harris | 238. Cinta Tuaau |
| 198. Gabrielle Constantino | 239. Elijah Nabong |
| 199. Kai Koyama | 240. Tina Chan |
| 200. Callisyn Zielenski | 241. Justin Kimata |
| 201. Chace Allen | 242. Annalise Busekrus |
| 202. Promise Sarmiento | 243. Shanzie Tiqui |
| 203. Linda Wong | 244. Lexi Hughes |
| 204. David Liang | 245. Valerie Eshelman |

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September 17, 2020**

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

The preceding Comment Form was completed by the following individuals.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 246. Andrian Gajigan | 286. Marina Tran |
| 247. Sami Akuna | 287. Anna Cao |
| 248. Taylor Bogan | 288. Ellena Ruiz |
| 249. Adrian Ellis Alarilla | 289. Luke Ball |
| 250. Tavehi Tafiti | 290. Andee Arrivas |
| 251. Terry Slaughter | 291. Ryan Ozawa |
| 252. Kaipulaumakaniolono Baker | 292. Bryazha Caires |
| 253. Eri Brailsford | 293. Anthony Novoa |
| 254. Marissa Nash | 294. Keith Cachola |
| 255. Allan Zablocki | 295. Rose DeRyder |
| 256. Kylie Otsuka | 296. Dani Belvin |
| 257. Justin Ocampo | 297. Alex Thurston |
| 258. Cara Horibe | 298. Almira Akin |
| 259. Eri Brailsford | 299. Daniel Quiamas |
| 260. Loleina Carlos | 300. Barbars Wong |
| 261. Summer Waikiki | 301. Savannah Vanderzwan |
| 262. Allison Deliz | 302. Jordan Kaneshiro |
| 263. Suzie Park | 303. Chelsea Yuu |
| 264. Rachel Greiner | 304. Erin Nakamura |
| 265. Julianne Matsumoto | 305. Kaitlin Djiusni |
| 266. Holly McLaughlin | 306. Holly Hagin |
| 267. Charlie Tran | 307. Michelle Leung |
| 268. JR Dowd | 308. Derik Tamanaha |
| 269. Madison Audette | 309. Kyra Kawamoto |
| 270. Akihiro Sato | 310. Audree Catbagan |
| 271. Elizeh Basim | 311. Rachel Yun |
| 272. Nikki Zamani | 312. Jadee Sumabat |
| 273. Ruth Piano | 313. Tracy Bui |
| 274. Keyara Arakaki-Mineshima | 314. Loreen Leung |
| 275. Eleanor Bennett-White | 315. Evan Santos |
| 276. Sean Matthew Banaag | 316. Manuel Macias |
| 277. Katherine Ozawa | 317. Macayla Dietrich |
| 278. Meilani Galace | 318. Sam Lewis |
| 279. Emily Phan | 319. Kiana Delos Reyes |
| 280. Alvin Edrada | 320. Sam (no last name provided) |
| 281. Angelina Le | 321. Madison Anzai |
| 282. Mahie Lee | 322. Tiani Scott |
| 283. Celine Arnobit | 323. Janet Collard |
| 284. Tina Vo | 324. Tabatha Knudson |
| 285. Anna Cao | 325. Michelle Luu |

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September 17, 2020**

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

The preceding Comment Form was completed by the following individuals.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 326. Sophie Cooper | 367. Alyssa General |
| 327. Shanna Therese Francisco | 368. Chirka Ramos |
| 328. Trinity Anderson | 369. Jenna Tsuzaki |
| 329. Michael Ajimura | 370. Jen May Pastores |
| 330. Ciera Kameehonua | 371. Kekela Oku-Fernandez |
| 331. Skyler Kupahu-Nakayama | 372. Aprille Tang |
| 332. Ioane Omerod | 373. Sophia Cruz |
| 333. Jeanette Tajiri | 374. Kent Shinomae |
| 334. Michelle Rundbaken | 375. Alyssa Kondo |
| 335. Tanvi Reddy | 376. Rachel Beth Maglay |
| 336. Katrina Obleada | 377. Vanessa Khamkhay |
| 337. Vincent Chung | 378. Eva Wilder |
| 338. Allison Fernane | 379. Jenaya Wettach |
| 339. Zion Easterbrook | 380. Kristin Kobayashi |
| 340. Christian Ontai | 381. Yunshan Feng |
| 341. Anjoli Roy | 382. Aaron O'Malley |
| 342. Karlee Shay | 383. Kamalei Sterling |
| 343. Marisol Garcia | 384. Samantha Bergan |
| 344. Britnee Padilla | 385. Betty Ickes |
| 345. Arielle Caspillan | 386. Samantha Zirbes |
| 346. Samantha Mangine | 387. Cameron Woods |
| 347. Amanda Achiu | 388. Natsuki Sugimoto |
| 348. Ira Deloso | 389. Ty Sanga |
| 349. Jaime Sanchez | 390. Cheyenne Velez |
| 350. Lynne Moss | 391. Destyne Fagaragan |
| 351. Kirsten Whisenhant | 392. Morgan Olivia Book |
| 352. Jasmin Veg | 393. Rochelle Dela Cruz |
| 353. Jordan Confair | 394. Tehani Carter |
| 354. Soley Lymon | 395. Gretchen Jude |
| 355. Brent Alamillo | 396. Nicole Maniglia |
| 356. Lauren Rodriguez | 397. Madison Cristobal |
| 357. Chingchi Yu | 398. Ashanna Guyton |
| 358. Michael Bucao | 399. Breeann Kami |
| 359. Christie Salvador | 400. Wayland Quintero |
| 360. Candace Huynh | 401. Phoebe Lamountain |
| 361. Mahealani Ahia | 402. Vickie Smith |
| 362. Ivy Hsu | 403. Diane Treciokas |
| 363. Shirley Lam | 404. Louise Lanzilotti |
| 364. Shareen Murayama | 405. Erin Golcu |
| 365. Noelani Ahia | 406. Madison Miller |
| 366. Rebecca Romine | 407. Marissa Glorioso |

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September 17, 2020

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

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- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 408. Nicole Chapman | 449. Tasha Garcia-Gibson |
| 409. Sylvia Zietze | 450. Jhunette Liwanag |
| 410. Danica Balingit | 451. Kyra Dyer |
| 411. Brian Chung | 452. Cassidy Livingston |
| 412. Sandra Guajardo | 453. Daphne Oh |
| 413. Peonie Seesurat | 454. David Carr |
| 414. Chaunee Stockel | 455. Daphne Izu |
| 415. Lee Suan Chong | 456. Kiara Arakawa-Taum |
| 416. Cassidy Faulhaber | 457. Sasha Giron |
| 417. Yilong Liu | 458. Tehina Kahikina |
| 418. Naomi Mersberg | 459. Emma Kam |
| 419. Donald Carreira Ching | 460. Andres De Los Santos |
| 420. Graceanne Warburton | 461. Madison Enos |
| 421. Mirah Moriarty | 462. Keaka Kealoha |
| 422. Faith Im | 463. Maggie Yates |
| 423. Ronja Ver | 464. Jun Shin |
| 424. Amanda Miller | 465. Nicholas Chagnon |
| 425. Jonathan Heesch | 466. Chai Blair-Stahn |
| 426. Cliodhna Woods | 467. Juli Burk |
| 427. Hannah Autry | 468. Angel Bayot |
| 428. Andrew Sakaguchi | 469. Anya Carroll |
| 429. Virginia Pankoski | 470. Eldridge Shay |
| 430. Ksenia Sherstyuk | 471. Madisen Kinner |
| 431. Grace McCormack | 472. Anicka Medina |
| 432. Crystal Sepulveda | 473. Jasmine Salazar |
| 433. Jessica Israel | 474. Aglugub Benjamin |
| 434. Graceanne Warburton | 475. Auna Smith |
| 435. Analaura Fuentes | 476. Karsyn Crawford |
| 436. Kyle Malashewski | 477. Azure Cheuk Ng |
| 437. Rina Robin | 478. Josephine Dianne Deauna |
| 438. Nicole Lee | 479. David Scarlino |
| 439. Abigail Jones | 480. Jane Kerns |
| 440. Finn Kovi | 481. Kiana Rivera |
| 441. Elizabeth Conlon | 482. Maile Greenhill |
| 442. Margaret Paek | 483. Kailee Davis |
| 443. Alessandra Talabong | 484. Yhanessa Sales |
| 444. Emma Shirai | 485. Emna Belhadj |
| 445. Kylie Butts | 486. Julius DeMara |
| 446. Celine Parker | 487. Monique Lira |
| 447. Jamie Park | 488. Adonai Martinez |
| 448. Elizabeth Burdick | 489. Penn Pantumsinchai |

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- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 490. Desiree Quintero | 530. Rebekah Morton |
| 491. Danielle Sipin | 531. Elizabeth Serrao |
| 492. Harmony Tesoro | 532. Tyler Medina |
| 493. makenna rodriguez | 533. Romy Collado |
| 494. Hermen Tesoro, Jr | 534. Olivia Marshall |
| 495. Rebeca Ziegler | 535. Tadia Rice |
| 496. Amanda Patrick | 536. Samantha Lee |
| 497. Denise Hong | 537. Van Neils |
| 498. Cecilia Dagdagan | 538. Kristine Acosta |
| 499. Anthea Kraut | 539. Elizabeth Neuhauser |
| 500. Marisa Zazueta | 540. Brianna Anderson |
| 501. Lindsay Lozano | 541. Alyssa Park |
| 502. Tolo Ueligitone | 542. Anthony Torres |
| 503. Marshall Cressy | 543. Addie Leonard |
| 504. Juliette Ho | 544. Susan Gaukel |
| 505. Spencer Diedrick | 545. Ashley Monroe |
| 506. Bernadette Machard de Gramont | 546. Isabella sanders |
| 507. jordan humphrey | 547. Christine Maupetit |
| 508. Juliette Ho | 548. Marvel Luzell |
| 509. Satomi Ho | 549. Kara Terry |
| 510. Wilfred Ho | 550. Alexandra Stilianos |
| 511. Wilfred Ho | 551. Rashi Mal |
| 512. Bennett Ho | 552. THOMAS SMITH |
| 513. Rosanna Alegado | 553. Sarah Lee |
| 514. Jessica Damon | 554. Elina Hsiung |
| 515. Robin Worley | 555. Kate Yusi |
| 516. Alexa St. Martin | 556. Kevin Carr |
| 517. Amanda Murayama | 557. Mary English |
| 518. Tieri Chun | 558. Noelani Stewart |
| 519. Clara Boblet | 559. Rebecca Chan |
| 520. Naiad Wong | 560. Shannon Cleary |
| 521. Suzette Scotti | 561. Alton Lee |
| 522. Michael Harada | 562. Monika Lilleike |
| 523. Didier Lenglare | 563. Sophia de la Garza |
| 524. Mia Oana | 564. Erin Humbaugh |
| 525. Micah Leong | 565. Derrick Higginbotham |
| 526. Georja Skinner | 566. Sonali Schroder |
| 527. Daven Chang | 567. Adla-Marie Tait |
| 528. Malia Holubeck | 568. Luukia Archer |
| 529. Jennifer Nakamoto | |