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## Regents Policy, RP 8.203 Reserve Policy Testimony

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**Daezon Arruda** <daezonjk@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 8:22 AM

Aloha,

My name is Daezon Arruda and I am the President of the Campus Center Board at UH Manoa. Attached is our testimony in opposition to the approval of amendments to Regents Policy, RP 8.203, Reserve Policy.

Thank you for your time,  
Daezon Arruda  
President of Campus Center Board



**Regents Policy 8.203, Reserve Policy Testimony.pdf**  
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Campus Center Board

October 13, 2020

RE: Testimony in Opposition to the Approval of Amendments to Regents Policy, RP 8.203,  
Reserve Policy

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

We, the Campus Center Board, who represent the student union at UH Mānoa, strongly oppose the revised Regents Policy 8.203, Reserve Policy. The Campus Center Board has been the governing body of the services and programs housed in Campus Center, Hemenway Hall, and the Warrior Recreation Center since 1971. For 49 years, we have been able to serve students, faculty, staff, and alumni by managing the Campus Center Board's budgets and allocating funds to provide activities through the Activities Council and the Recreational Sports Council. We also provide space for over a 100 registered independent organizations and five chartered student organizations. These include Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH), Student Media Board (SMB), Graduate Student Organizations (GSO), Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB), and Campus Center Board (CCB). With this in mind, the Campus Center Complex encourages student leadership development and prioritizes students within the space.

While the reserve policy has been revised to include specific definitions of different reserves, it does not specify the reserves that are expended to support the Campus Center Complex from student fees. If the Campus Center Board's reserves were to be swept in the event a financial emergency is declared by the board, we believe that it would have a detrimental impact towards the operations and maintenance of the student union. Most of the funds that allow Campus Center to operate come from student activity fees. In addition, the reserves that have been generated are already spoken for as they are used for the continuous repair and replacement of Campus Center Complex facilities, including renovation projects, and debt service on a bond issued for the construction of the Warrior Recreation Center. Due to the decrease in fee paying students, it is essential that we keep our reserves in order to operate.

While Resolution 20-03 states, "Administration shall work with the faculty, students, and staff to seek the broadest possible consensus for the greater good in order to maintain the integrity and continued function of the University.", there is still language in the Regents Policy 8.203 that gives unprecedented power to the President and Chief Financial Officer. If the board "delegates the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the President, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer", this would potentially allow for free-range authority over the Campus Center Complex revenues and reserves in a financial emergency.



## Campus Center Board

We strongly advocate for the Board of Regents and the Administration to uphold their commitment to consult with faculty and student governance before proceeding to approve the amendment of Regents Policy 8.203, Reserve Policy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Daezon Arruda  
President of Campus Center Board



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAI'I  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Testimony from TUTH for Oct. 15 BOR meeting

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**Cynthia Franklin** <cfrankli@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 4:31 PM

To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, Kendra Oishi <kendra65@hawaii.edu>

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Cynthia Franklin (she/her)  
Professor  
Co-Editor, *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*  
Department of English (KUY 224)  
University of Hawai'i  
1733 Donaghho Road  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
[cfrankli@hawaii.edu](mailto:cfrankli@hawaii.edu)



**TUTH BOR Testimony for Oct. 15 2020.pdf**

45K

October 13, 2020

Dear Board of Regents:

We enter this written testimony into the record in relation to Agenda Item VI.A.2 (Approval of Budget Policy Paper). We do so on behalf of the group A Thriving University for a Thriving Hawai'i (TUTH), a system-wide group of students, faculty and staff. We write to urge you to withhold approval of the Budget Policy Paper, which uses the fiscal crisis to reset the main mission of the university in unprecedented and far-reaching ways. More generally, we urge you to withhold approval of the massive organizational changes being currently attempted based on vague and unsubstantiated promises of cost savings. In brief, we urge you to insist that the President and leadership of the university approach the reorganization of the university with the deliberation and consultation an undertaking of this scale deserves.

Like you, we are aware of the gravity of the fiscal crisis confronting us. At the same time, as racial injustices are at the forefront of public debate through critical movements such as Black Lives Matter, and during a time in which economic inequalities are ever more entrenched and climate change so palpable in people's daily lives, we are also acutely aware of the gravity of the social, moral and environmental crises confronting us. In fact, it is impossible to separate these issues from the current pandemic which is the source of the fiscal crisis confronting us all. A fiscal crisis is easier to fix than these other crises, which need thoughtful, passionate, adventurous, imaginative, ethical and engaged communities--the kinds of communities that the University of Hawai'i has a responsibility to continually create and foster. We are concerned that the fiscal crisis is being used to make ill-advised changes that will gravely damage the university's capacity to address these other much deeper crises.

In the place of the Budget Policy Paper, we would like to respectfully offer alternative principles by which to guide and reinvent the University of Hawai'i for the future.

### **Public Good over Narrow Profit**

The University of Hawai'i is not a for-profit corporation. Its goals are not to produce profit, though it must surely prepare a well-trained workforce for sustainable jobs. Just as importantly it must produce a well-educated and free citizenry, capable of asking uncomfortable questions to people in power on a range of issues, including such recent ones as the TMT/Maunakea and what it means to value Hawai'i's millennia long history.

To reduce the educational mission of the university to vocational training, as seen in the Budget Policy Paper and in the evisceration of arts, humanities and interdisciplinary departments through the ongoing reorganization, is patronizing and a disservice to the young people who organized and marched for Maunakea, BLM, and #MeToo. A university's mission should be to support critical thinking and to be a space for students to learn and grow in ways that lead to a better and more just society. This mission should be at the heart of any understanding of the university as a public good and should guide any planning for the future.

### **Education over Construction**

The primary mission of a university is education through the twin and intimately linked functions of classroom instruction and research. UH is indeed a large employer and an economic engine for Hawai'i. As highlighted by the [Civil Beat](#) this week, "the growth of the University of Hawaii as a major research university is one of the state's better economic development successes."

We are concerned at the statement in documents circulated by the university administration that it advocates pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into construction projects at the university. We recognize that workers in the construction industry are hurting and urge the political leadership of Hawai'i to devise policies to help workers in that industry. We are all in this together.

But the policies currently being advocated for the university will result in vulnerable higher education workers (lecturers, Graduate Assistants, lower level staff) being thrown off the payroll or being forced to take severe pay cuts. It will also result in an acceleration of the downsizing of full-time faculty and staff positions. Already, in the last several months, we are seeing the move to replace full-time staff with part-time temporary workers, a move that accompanies the longstanding adjunctification of higher education through which lecturers replace tenure track faculty. Surely the construction industry cannot be saved by gutting higher education--a public good that should and does provide employment. We urge you to resist the prioritization of construction over instruction and property over people.

### **Equity over Equality**

A recent email to EM employees noted that the "first \$200,000 of each EM employees salary will be reduced by 9.23% and any salary amount above \$200,000 will be reduced

by 11%." These figures are based, the email indicates, on the governor's proposal for a cut of 9.23% to all UH employees achieved through furloughs.

Sometimes, though, and certainly in this case, moves made in the name of equality intensify existing inequities. It is plain wrong to treat as equal the reduction in pay of those paid least (i.e., instructors, lecturers who will have fewer courses, assistant professors, entry-level staff) and the pay reduction of EM employees who make up to \$200,000. In the former case, a cut of 9.23% might mean inability to buy food, pay a utility bill, or to scrape together money for rent. And in the latter case such a cut--or, for salary amounts over \$200,000, a 11% cut--will not require the giving up of any necessities.

We know that discussions are still ongoing with the unions and we will let them speak for us. We also know that university leadership constitutes one player among many in this regard. Nevertheless, we call on you to embrace and advocate the principle of equity over equality so that the most vulnerable within the university community experience no cuts and the most privileged the most. At this time of crisis, we believe in the principle of "from each according to means, and to each according to need."

There are also alternative roads to fiscal health that do not involve cuts. A plan with such a vision exists, as do legislators who support this vision. For a start, see for example, the Hawai'i Policy and Budget Center's [recommendations](#). Why not work with these policy experts and call upon the Governor to tax the wealthy rather than gutting education and hurting the people who can least afford it? We urge you to advocate on behalf of the university, and its employees, and to do so based on the principle of equity.

### **Transparency and Deliberation over Administrative Fiat and Haste**

The upheaval currently convulsing the university has wasted the time of countless employees, produced acute anxiety, imposed arbitrary and unexplained deadlines without the consultation of stakeholders (as was the case with broadening the scope of Interdisciplinary Studies, which is supposed to partner with the "Studies" departments but was not consulted), invited input that is then disregarded (see the establishment of CALL), and left many questions unanswered (for example, how are the ORUs and athletics being reorganized in the interest of cost saving?).

This upheaval is happening at a time in which many faculty, staff, and students are actively involved in the pandemic response. Moreover, all faculty are working their best to provide quality education during the most challenging of times. Many of them are doing so while balancing child and elder care and like many in Hawai'i, a number of

faculty and staff are also doing this while facing significant financial constraints due to the loss of employment of household members.

The process unleashed by the administration in the last few months does not foster confidence, let alone goodwill. A budgetary process that is ill-informed and results in short-sighted decisions generates demoralization, anger and distrust, rather than cooperation, care, and collaboration.

As the more than a thousand testimonies submitted to you last month argue, the fiscal crisis is being used to pursue a university reorganization agenda that long predates the pandemic and ensuing fiscal crisis. We urge you to consider that a reorganization on the scale being attempted should not be undertaken during a crisis and in haste and under duress. The fiscal crisis should be addressed through negotiations with the Governor, legislators, the unions, and student government. And the reorganization, on which the future of the university and Hawai'i depends, should follow its own logic with the involvement of all stakeholders. To reiterate the point that the testifiers made, nothing but opportunism links the two.

We hope you will regard this collectively-authored testimony as a sincere effort to reset the processes currently underway in ways that will only benefit the university. We remain committed to working with you and other leaders and stakeholders, and we call upon you to fulfill your responsibility to urge the university leadership to work with us in a respectful and meaningful way.

Sincerely,  
TUTH (A Thriving University for a Thriving Hawai'i)





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## Support for UH Mānoa's Journalism B.A. Program

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Noelle F <noellefujii@outlook.com>

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 7:32 PM

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

Dear members of the Board of Regents,

I was extremely disappointed to hear that UH is considering cutting its Journalism B.A. program.

I am a proud 2016 graduate of this program and owe a lot to it because it brought me to Hawai'i and helped turn me into the journalist I am today. The 36 credit hours of journalism classes provided me with skills in research, reporting, editing, multimedia storytelling, and media ethics and law. It is because of this program that I can today tell an engaging, in-depth story through print, online and video platforms. In addition, this program taught me about journalistic integrity and how to gather facts for articles and write them in a way that is objective, accurate and fair – an important talent in today's divided society.

The knowledge and skills that I gained in this program prepared me for internships with three local newsrooms, a national multimedia journalism training program with the Asian American Journalists Association and my current role as a writer at *Hawaii Business Magazine*. Many of my classmates benefited from this program in similar ways.

UH Mānoa's Journalism Program is the only stand-alone journalism program in the state. Please do not deprive future students of a quality education that provides them with the real-world skills they need for internships and careers as journalists. Keep UH's Journalism B.A. Program intact.

Sincerely,

Noelle Fujii-Oride



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## Save Hawaii Journalism

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**Teri Theuriet** <teritheuriet@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 7:02 PM

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

Cc: cdmoore@hawaii.edu, mbruno2@hawaii.edu

Aloha, President Lassner and the University of Hawaii Board of Regents:

Journalism is more than an occupation. It's a calling, an ethical and social-justice compass that points those who choose the profession to truth and accuracy, to fight for the little guy, to hold the feet of the powerful to the fire.

We carried this attitude even during our early years as budding journalists. We had the great fortune to apply what we were learning in the classroom as staff of the University of Hawaii's campus newspaper, Ka Leo. It was our chance to get hands-on experience not just with writing and reporting, but also editing, page design, budgets and time management. We became advocates for the student body, always seeking information and truth and giving the little guy a voice in the university community.

We found our compass working at Ka Leo and learning in the classroom; it also helped us navigate our careers. Some of us stayed locally, working for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, The Honolulu Advertiser, MidWeek and KHON. Others ventured farther, to newsrooms across the country in places like Washington, Chicago and San Francisco.

Though many of us are no longer in newsrooms, the lessons and good habits learned through UH's journalism program have stayed with us and provided a solid foundation for our post-news careers. Solid and balanced writing, research and fact finding, editorial and ethical judgment, adaptability, resourcefulness, the respect for and ability to work under deadlines: These are specialized skills that are not taught in the broader communications courses. They were drilled into us by the journalism faculty, and they made us better at our jobs, no matter the profession.

We've stayed in touch over the years because the bonds that were forged over late-night deadlines and during arguments over editorials cannot be broken. It would be heartbreaking to see the dismantling of a program that helped shape us and our careers.

We urge you to reject the provost's recommendation and keep the journalism program intact. We need future generations to find their way and become trusted voices in and for our communities. We can only hope that they will be fortunate enough to also find the kind of lifelong friendships with which we are blessed.

Sincerely,

Donica Croot Kaneshiro, Class of 1996

Gwen Battad Ishikawa, Class of 1991

Jason Kaneshiro, Class of 1996

Lorna Lim Wong, Class of 1992

Michael Tsai

Scott Ishikawa, Class of 1991

Shannon Tangonan Putnam, Class of 1992

Sjarif Goldstein, Class of 1994

Teri Nakayama Theuriet



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## AAJA - Hawai'i Chapter statement (re: UH Manoa Journalism B.A. program)

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**Wes Nakama** <wesnakama@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 11:15 PM

Aloha UH Board of Regents,

Please see the attached statement from the Asian American Journalists Association - Hawai'i Chapter, regarding the UH Journalism B.A. program.

Any questions, please let me know.

Mahalo,

Wes Nakama UHM '91 (B.A. Journalism)  
National Advisory Board Member  
Asian American Journalism Association - Hawai'i Chapter

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 **AAJA Hawaii Statement.docx**  
147K



**TO:** University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Asian American Journalists Association – Hawai'i Chapter  
**RE:** Support for UH Mānoa's Journalism B.A. program

Aloha UH Board of Regents,

The Asian American Journalists Association – Hawai'i Chapter strongly supports retaining the UH Mānoa Journalism B.A. program.

One of AAJA's core missions is "**to provide encouragement, advice and scholarship assistance to Asian American and Pacific Islander students who aspire to professional careers,**" and AAJA – Hawai'i has proudly served this mission for dozens of UH journalism students since our chapter was established in 1989.

Many UH journalism alumni have become productive and valuable staff members and contributors at various Hawai'i mainstream and ethnic media outlets. Thanks in part to the education and training they received from UH's Journalism B.A. program, these former students help to inform residents with essential and objective fact-based reporting particularly during this critical time in the COVID-19 pandemic. Other alumni have moved on to fields related to public relations and communications – while still applying some of the core skills learned in their journalism classes.

The degree program provides affordable, high-quality, practical education and training to aspiring journalists from our local high schools and community colleges. As the only stand-alone journalism degree program in the state, it helps attract among the best and brightest students to UH. Many of these journalism students also contribute greatly to the university community by serving as reporters and editors for *Ka Leo*, the iconic campus newspaper with a 98-year history.

The degree program offers multi-platform training (print, broadcast, online) that prepares students to use the latest tools to reach an elusive 21st century audience. The students are trained to report in a fair and accurate way while developing news and media literacy and a journalism ethics foundation that is increasingly important in today's fast-paced information environment.

The AAJA – Hawai'i Chapter Board, comprised of professional journalists and contributors to our diverse media landscape, strongly requests that the Board of Regents retain the UH Journalism B.A. program. The program is vital not just to the university, but also to the future of our education system and well being of our state overall.

Mahalo,

AAJA – Hawai'i Chapter Board

AAJA – Hawai'i Chapter  
P.O. Box 22592  
Honolulu, HI 96823  
[www.aajahawaii.org](http://www.aajahawaii.org)



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## Save Hawai'i Journalism

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**Edna Bautista** <ebautist@chaminade.edu>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:17 AM

To: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "cdmoore@hawaii.edu" <cdmoore@hawaii.edu>, "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

To the University of Hawaii-Manoa President David Lassner, Provost Michael Bruno and Board of Regents:

I am writing in support to save Hawaii journalism. Although I have been affiliated with Chaminade University of Honolulu and Hawaii Pacific University, I enjoyed the collegiality among Chaminade and HPU professors with UHM faculty whenever we met at state events or national and international conferences relating to journalism education. Even though we were all friendly school rivals, we respected each other because of our mutual mission to educate future journalists.

It is a shame that the largest journalism school in the state and the only one offering a specific degree in journalism is in danger of being gutted. Chaminade's, HPU's and even Brigham Young University-Hawaii's journalism courses are under a communications department. UHM might follow suit, but if this happens the uniqueness of being a standalone journalism major in Hawaii will be gone.

Save the journalism major at UHM and save the future of the field in Hawaii! Stay unique and be the only university in Hawaii to carry the journalism name proudly. We at the other smaller, private universities have always looked to UHM as a model and leader when structuring our journalism curricula. Keep the major alive and not buried under a communications department!

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Edna Bautista  
Hawaii Filipino Chronicle  
Journalism Scholarship Committee Chair

Chaminade University of Honolulu, Alumna  
Former Department Chair of Communication

Hawaii Pacific University  
Former Adjunct Professor of Communication

Alumna, East-West Center



## testimony

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**Stirling Morita** <smorita1@twc.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 8:04 PM

Hi, I am submitting written testimony from the Hawaii Professional Chapter of the Society of Profession Journalists in regards to the budget process and possible program cuts.

Thank you,

Stirling Morita

President, Hawaii Chapter SPJ

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 **101520 Save Hawaii Journalism.pdf**  
610K



P.O. Box 3141  
Honolulu, HI 96802  
Oct. 15, 2020

University of Hawaii Board of Regents  
Bachman Hall  
University of Hawai'i System  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Regents:

To read Noelle Fuii-Oride's work is to know the University of Hawaii Journalism Program works and has impact.

I first met Noelle in 2015, when she interned at the Honolulu Star-Advertiser while also working for Ka Leo O Hawaii. She had a lot of skills learned from UH.

The following year, she interned for Hawaii Business magazine and blossomed, and was later hired as a reporter for the magazine. Quite a feat for a kid just out of school.

But that wasn't it.

Last month, the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded her three first place trophies in its annual contest, including the highly prized Body of Work (Best Writer) category.

We ask you to keep the UH Journalism Program in operational order to maintain that pathway for local journalists.

We hope you will not cut the UH Journalism Program, and here are many other reasons:

■ **The provost now proposes to keep the journalism B.A. degree program**

We understand the need for budget cuts, and we support efforts by Provost Bruno to retain the B.A. degree program within a reorganized School of Communications. We ask you to allow journalism faculty, the School of Communications and the Dean of Social Sciences to come up with cost efficiencies based on their knowledge of their field and students' needs.

■ **The UH Journalism Program does its job in preparing students to work in local news media.**

The people of Hawaii need journalists trained in fact-based reporting, and that's what UH Journalism provides. It is the only stand-alone journalism program in the state.

More than 60 journalists trained at UH Mānoa report and edit at local newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, websites and magazines today. Over the years, that number is well over 100. Some have gone onto distinguished careers in public relations, government affairs, law and other fields where their journalism training served them and Hawaii. In fact, quite a few public relations personnel started out as journalists.

UH Journalism instructors teach how to gather facts for articles and to write them in a way that doesn't show bias to one side or another – an important talent in this day of opinions in a divided society.

■ **UH Journalism enrollment has grown.**

The demand for journalism training remains strong: Enrollment was up 50 percent in Fall 2020.

Writing, research and interviewing skills are important for many careers, whether they are used by a reporter, a public relations person, a lawyer or other professional. Those skills are honed in the UH journalism program along with the multimedia skills needed to communicate across today's many platforms: the internet, TV, radio, print, video, podcasts and social media.

■ **Keep the UH Journalism bachelor's degree**

The key would be to give students the journalism skills they need to serve Hawaii. Today, a Journalism B.A. requires 36 credits of Journalism courses. We ask that you not reduce the number of credits because it's likely that Journalism courses that are now required would not even be offered. The Communications program offers many interesting classes but limited skills training: Communications students mostly study *about* communication but don't *produce* communication. In Journalism, students learn by doing real reporting, writing and production. If the journalism program is maintained, it can also provide firm foundations for other programs such as public relations.

■ **More training and potential shortage of students to be interns in Hawaii.**

If UH guts the Journalism program, local news media would be forced to hire more and more journalists trained at Mainland universities, many of them unfamiliar with Hawaii. We



need more – not fewer – reporters and editors raised and trained in Hawaii with a deep understanding of local issues, politics, culture and traditions.

(I offer as an example: Two top political analysts in the daily newspapers were schooled in the UH Journalism Program: Jerry Burris of the Honolulu Advertiser and Richard Borreca of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Ken Kobayashi, probably the finest legal affairs reporter who worked mostly at the Advertiser, also is a UH Journalism grad.)

Television news wouldn't be able to use UH students as interns, drying up the number of interns locally who could get a foot in the door to be hired. In fact, UH could lose many internships because they wouldn't be qualified with a diluted journalism education. The attraction for news media is the afterschool availability of interns – something that can't be done with students at Mainland universities.

The Hawaii Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists provides more than \$20,000 each summer for paid internships. Many of those paid interns come from UH. The number of qualified intern candidates would probably shrink if UH Journalism is gutted. Not all students can afford to go to Mainland schools for journalism programs.

#### ■ **Strong foundation for internships and jobs.**

The UH Journalism Program is demanding. However, the rigorous Journalism program prepares students for internships and careers upon graduation. Those are the young people who get hired by local news media.

UH Journalism has prepared students for internships and jobs. Almost all local news media operations – big and small – have UH Journalism graduates on staff. There are currently 61 UH Journalism graduates on staff at local media outlets.

Journalism creates good citizens. Students learn the political process, how public policy is made and how bills become law; they learn the importance of informed voting and understand many issues. They apply the First Amendment in public service to Hawaii.

Journalism is not just a career, it is a service that is fundamental to our democracy, where it is considered the Fifth Estate and watchdog on government wrongdoing.

#### ■ **There is a need for journalism schooling.**

Journalism is not dying – it is changing. UH Journalism trains its graduates for a present and future in which people get their information from news media via the Internet, podcasts, video as well as traditional news platforms like print, TV and radio. The alternatives to trained journalists are disinformation, partisan social media and conspiracy theory-laden websites. As more colleges dump journalism, who will provide us with trustworthy information. There are many digital soapboxes out there, and education of those running

them in ethics and other important basics is important. Just think of it: Where will you get your information in the future if reliable sources dry up?

■ **UH should be building its award-winning Journalism program, not gutting it.**

UH Journalism students won 23 awards this year from the Society of Professional Journalists on top of dozens of other awards won in the past two years. A \$100,000 donation from Carol Burnett to UH Journalism is just one of 17 that support journalism students and the program. In fact, when Burnett's donation was mentioned by an audience member at her March 6, 2020 performance at the Blaisdell Concert Hall, it received among the biggest applause of the night.

■ **The Journalism B.A. program contributes to all three of the university's Institutional Learning Objectives: Know, Do and Value.**

- Know: Specialized study in an academic field.
- Do: Students improve their abilities to think critically and creatively, conduct research, and communicate and report.
- Value: Students demonstrate excellence, integrity, and engagement through civic participation in their communities.

Journalism is a responsibility to society. Letting the electorate know what is going on in government and society is recognized as a pillar of a democracy as immortalized in the First Amendment's freedom of the press provision. If or when the economy improves, will the Journalism Program be in a position to be expanded back to its original setup, where what you learn substance rather than form?

UH Journalism allows the University to reach into the community. Its students perform a public service by providing fact-based news that is essential to democracy and civil society. A robust UH Journalism program reflects well on the University. Poor or inadequate journalism training harms the University's reputation.

Here are well-known and high-ranking graduates of the UH Journalism Program. Public TV President Leslie Wilcox is a grad, and KHON's News Director Lori Silva graduated from the UH Journalism Program. Also a grad is Hawaii News Now's Assignment Editor Brenda Salgado, undoubtedly the best in town. UH Journalism grad Lucy Young (-Oda) is the editorial page editor for the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

At last count, there were 61 UH grads working in the local news media:

- KHET (Hawaii Public Television) Leslie Wilcox, Chuck Parker, Anna Gomes
- KHPR (Hawaii Public Radio) Sandee Oshiro, Harrison Patino, Jackie Young

- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Lucy Young-Oda, John Bender, George Lee, Jamm Aquino, Mark Ladao, Charlene Robinson; Gordon Pang, Ruben Duldulao, Ruby Mata Viti, Brian McInnis, Robert Shikina, Rosemarie C. Bernardo, Kristen K. Sawada Patricia A. Gee, Stephen Tsai
  
- KHON Channel 2: Reid Shimizu. Jennifer Brink, Lori Silva, Chanel Miura, Kristine Uyeno, Lance Kuraoka Tina DeMello, Benjamin Silva, Karen Iwamoto, Nelson Daranciang, Mokihana Aki, Joie Nishimoto, Tasha Tanimoto, Kimberlee Speakman, Manolo Morales, Jenn Boneza, Christian Shimabuku
  
- KITV: Victoria Cuba, Cherry Pascual, Bianca Smallwood, Bobby Bergonio , Nicole Tam
  
- Hawaii News Now: Josh Benton, Mary Vorsino, Dillon Ancheta, Daryl Huff, Brenda Salgado, Jim Mendoza, Daniel Nunes, Keahi Tucker, Lacy Deniz, Joe Barruso
  
- MidWeek: Yushing Ting
  
- Honolulu Magazine: Christi Young, Robbie Dingeman, Stacey Makiya
  
- Hawaii Business: Noelle Fujii-Oride
  
- Maui News: Melissa K. Tanji, Stefanie Nakasone (Brian Perry, now the Maui mayor's spokesman)
  
- Environment Hawaii: Teresa A. Dawson

Thank you for your attention,



Stirling Morita  
President, Hawaii Professional Chapter of Society of Professional Journalists

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## Personal Testimony: UH Journalism B.A. program helped me live my dream

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**Wes Nakama** <wesnakama@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:08 PM

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

Cc: cdmooore@hawaii.edu

Aloha President Lassner, Provost Bruno, and the UH Board of Regents,

My name is Wes Nakama, and I am a very proud and grateful graduate of UH Mānoa's Journalism B.A. program (Spring 1991) -- a high-quality and yet affordable option which helped me achieve my career goal and live out my childhood dream.

From the age of 11, I religiously read the sports pages of The Honolulu Advertiser every morning and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin every afternoon. My dream was to someday see my byline in either of those newspapers, and by the time I was a high school junior, I knew that Journalism would be my college major. Although I attended 'Iolani School since kindergarten and most of my classmates were traditionally bound for Mainland universities, I wanted to stay home and UH's Journalism B.A. program offered me the chance to do that.

I spent my junior year in the National Student Exchange program at Cal State Northridge, which at the time reportedly had a journalism department ranked No. 5 in California and No. 26 in the entire nation. I found success there, winning an award as the "Outstanding Writer" on the staff of the campus newspaper, the Daily Sundial.

To my knowledge, UH's Journalism program had no such ranking, and yet I later found the classes and training I received in Mānoa to be equal or even superior to CSUN's in many respects.

I also served on the staff of Ka Leo, first as a reporter and then as Sports Editor, and the classes and training I received in the Journalism program helped me gain valuable practical experience in those roles.

Upon graduation, I was hired as Sports Editor for Sun Press Newspapers in Kane'ohe and oversaw the sports sections for the Windward, Central and East O'ahu weekly editions for four years. I then became a reporter/Assistant Sports Editor for the Boca Raton News in South Florida for two years, followed by two-plus years as a sports reporter for the award-winning Contra Costa Times in the East Bay Area of California.

At the CCT, I was given the opportunity to provide spot coverage of the NFL, NBA, Major League Baseball, NASCAR, the WTA and Pac-10 athletics, as well as beat coverage of the nation's premier high school football program, De La Salle.

But most importantly, the education, training and practical experience I gained thanks to UH's Journalism B.A. program allowed me to achieve my ultimate professional goal in March 2001 when I was hired as a sports reporter for The Honolulu Advertiser. I spent the next nine-plus years providing the people of my beloved home state with daily beat coverage of high school sports.

Despite being laid off in June 2010 as a result of The Advertiser's sale and shutdown, I have continued to use the education and training I received from UH's Journalism B.A. program both at the professional and freelance levels, to this very day. This includes beat coverage of UH men's basketball via WarriorInsider.com, allowing me to give back to my alma mater in a joyful and exciting way for the past 10 years.

I cannot imagine how my life would have turned out were it not for the UH Journalism B.A. program, and it scares me to think about how any proposed cuts to or the elimination of this crucial program would impact future students and Hawai'i's media landscape in general.

The UH Journalism B.A. program helped a wide-eyed local kid like myself achieve my professional and personal life goals, and allowed me to become a productive citizen and contributor to this state which I love so dearly. I humbly ask that you please do everything in your power to preserve the UH Journalism B.A. program, so that other kids like myself may pursue and achieve their professional and personal goals, live out their dream as I did, and become important and productive contributors to Hawai'i through the quality delivery of news.

Any questions, please let me know.

Mahalo,

Wes Nakama  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa 1991  
**B.A. Journalism**

National Advisory Board Representative  
Asian American Journalism Association - Hawai'i Chapter

cc: Colin Moore (UH Mānoa Communications School Chair)

## 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) \***

Pablo Wegesend

**Your Organization (optional)**

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

pwegesen@hawaii.edu

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

OTHER

**OTHER (Please describe) \***

response to proposal to eliminate journalism degree programs

**Your Position (required) \***

Comments Only

**Your Testimony/Comments**

To the UH Board of Regents,

This is in response to proposals to eliminate Journalism B.A. Program at UH-Mānoa.

In an era where it is even more imperative to keep our population properly informed, it is shameful that there is even a proposal to eliminate Journalism B.A. Program from our university.

In an era where it is even more imperative to keep a watch on our government, it is shameful that there is even a proposal to eliminate Journalism B.A. Program from our university.

The university serves our society. A society isn't properly served when the university isn't training the next generation of journalists to keep our population fully informed about what is going on around us.

Please keep the Journalism B.A. program at our university.

Sincerely,  
Pablo Wegesend  
UH-Mānoa alumni

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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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) \***

Justin Paz

**Your Organization (optional)**

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

jpaz4@hawaii.edu

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

OTHER

**OTHER (Please describe) \***

Report on Budget and Finance

**Your Position (required) \***

Oppose

### Your Testimony/Comments

Funding for the German BA track should continue as it is a major sought out by many students attending UH Manoa. I know someone that is pursuing this specific major and cutting this program could complicate things for said individual and for future students that wish to earn a BA in German. Removing said program from the system could also prove inconvenient for majors outside the realm of German studies. Science majors are required to take 2 years of language and they may come to develop an interest in double majoring with a minor in German after taking a semester of German language. In addition, German culture is an integral part of the University as many buildings are named after German pioneers that have contributed to the development of the UH institution, so I also believe that the BA German track should be kept in honor of those individuals. The German professors at UH Manoa also put in a significant deal of effort to teach the German language, history, and culture—keeping the German BA track is crucial to uphold the integrity of the Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas.



## Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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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) \***

Edd Harnas

**Your Organization (optional)**

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

eddharnas@hawaiiintel.net

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

OTHER

**OTHER (Please describe) \***

Report on Budget and Finance

**Your Position (required) \***

Comments Only

### Your Testimony/Comments

Support for the German BA Program at UH:

Many years ago, I watched some television coverage of the Olympics. I was impressed at how many athletes from other countries were able to speak English, to one degree or other, with sports reporters. And I wondered, how many American athletes could communicate on any level with a Japanese, French or Romanian reporter? Good question. I see the educational system focus on specialized training these days, but I hope we are not turning out one-trick ponies. We need well-rounded graduates, ready to tackle any situation, for example, the one we're currently in with COVID-19. I believe a fully educated person will have had access to a variety of knowledge and skills, and language should be one of them.

As a participant in the NaKapuna Senior Citizen Visitor Program, I have taken several courses in the German department. In my case, this has allowed me to better understand and communicate with my daughter, currently living in Germany, and her native-German husband. Learning German has given me access to understanding the culture and current events that surround them.

Therefore, I add my voice to the others supporting the continuation of the German BA program at the University of Hawai'i.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

### Actions

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## Regarding Proposed Cut of the German BA Program

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Jake Shearer <Jakeshearer67@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:56 AM

To: "david@hawaii.edu" <david@hawaii.edu>, "david.lassner@hawaii.edu" <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>  
Cc: "mbruno2@hawaii.edu" <mbruno2@hawaii.edu>, "COVID19@hawaii.edu" <COVID19@hawaii.edu>,  
"bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, "parnade@hawaii.edu" <parnade@hawaii.edu>,  
"tbrisliln@hawaii.edu" <tbrisliln@hawaii.edu>, "kondo@hawaii.edu" <kondo@hawaii.edu>, "laranda@hawaii.edu"  
<laranda@hawaii.edu>, Maryann Overstreet <overst@hawaii.edu>

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jacob Shearer. I graduated from UH Mānoa in 2017 with undergraduate degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies, Anthropology, and German. The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the German language department at UH, as well as my strong opposition to the proposed cut of the BA program.

The German department was, from the very beginning, the welcoming and supportive environment I needed to help me succeed at UH. I had studied it for a few years, and wanted to continue at a higher level at Mānoa, where I met other students who became friends. The teachers were not only dedicated to seeing us excel in their own subject; they doubled as advisors who were always encouraging and informing our individual paths to careers. In no other situation did I experience such genuine investment in my academic and professional success. Not the new student counseling, not my assigned advisors in my other majors, but with the instructors in the German department, an experience I share with other graduates.

In those instructors' classes, I was immersed in a rigorous, engaging, and innovative environment that far exceeded almost any other classroom I have found in a dozen or so Japanese or Hawaiian classes in 4 years as a language student at UH. The instructors are good at what they do, and the quality of the program's graduates are evidence for that. In the more advanced courses, their guidance brought up my academic writing skills in German to the same level as my native English and raised my critical thinking skills in both languages. In fact, after three years of study in the UH program, I and several other graduates were certified at CEFR level C1 proficiency in German through a study abroad opportunity offered by the UH program. The UH instructors and German BA program were the catalysts to our success.

Being a part of the program was indeed a blessing while I was attending UH, and the German program was also extremely helpful in finding a job after graduation. While my other two major programs made no attempt to help me find a job, the faculty of the German department regularly shared employment opportunities with me and offered all kinds of support while I was looking for employment. Indeed, it was through them that I found my first job after graduation: teaching German part time at a local high school. In a world where too many university graduates are threatened with lower and lower prospects of securing a good job, I would think that UH would praise and value a BA program which sees its students through to employment, not try to cut it.

The German department, despite its small size, was by far the most helpful of any institutional influence in my experience, both during my time as a student at UH, and after graduation. I hope I have shown that the German BA program represents the ideal qualities that should be considered markers of a successful major program. I also hope those are the kinds of standards to which UH holds its various degrees programs. Please, do not cut the German BA, and do not take away this positive experience from future students.

With deepest sincerity,





UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

## 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) \*

Justin Chad Hayag

### Your Organization (optional)

German Club at UH Manoa

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

hayagjc@hawaii.edu

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

OTHER

### OTHER (Please describe) \*

Report on Budget and Finance

### Your Position (required) \*

Support

### Your Testimony/Comments

Support keeping the German BA program on behalf of the German Club at UH Manoa.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[German Club\\_Petition to Keep German Program.pdf](#) (843.7 kB)

## Actions

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October 12, 2020

The German Club at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas  
1890 East-West Road, Moore 464  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**Petition to Keep the German Program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

To whom it may concern:

With the announcement of the proposed cuts to small programs such as the German BA program, On behalf of the German Club at UH Manoa, this is our plea to keep the German BA program. We would prefer that the German program not be moved into Interdisciplinary Studies and therefore reject the unwarranted and ill-conceived recommendations regarding the future of the German BA program. If implemented, not only would it be detrimental to our university, but would also weaken our institution by depriving local students of a wide range of opportunities that the German Major can offer. The German Club here at the University of Manoa conducts outreach events that appeal to many students from diverse backgrounds. These events are a gateway to many students pursuing a major or a certificate in the German Language, as well as students that have some form of relationship or interest in the language by creating an environment that promotes the learning and practice of German language and culture. Through events like Kaffeestunde (coffee hour), movie days, German bake-sales, and special events like meeting with important officials like the consul general of Germany in San Francisco and the honorary consul of Germany in Hawaii have helped promote German language and culture learning among students. The events also create a sense of community for all that have an interest or relationship with German.



The opportunity to study German is important to many students and their studies because it opens an array of opportunities for students. With many of our students being double majors or just pursuing the certificate in German language, taking German complements many degrees including science based such as Biology, Chemistry, Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Physics, and Psychology.

The professors are the most kind and helpful to the students. With professors like our faculty adviser and club organizer, Anna Hawajska-Waters, they have been able to provide the resources necessary and guidance to organize such events that promote German learning and culture. They are very open-minded and strive to make sure their students understand the content that is taught in the classrooms. The content that they teach is relatable and concurrent with the times. The professors and instructors make themselves very approachable and ultimately, are always there for their students.

Once again, we, on behalf of the German Club, would like to plead to keep the German BA program at the University of Hawai'i at Manōa. We hope that you will support this petition and will take our words into consideration deciding the future of the German program.

Sincerely, the current members of the German Club at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Nathaniel Flores

Justin Chad Hayag

Jake Denton-Kubo

Regan Lee

Sarah Piedra

Bailey Wanner

Victoria Wong



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## UHM Theatre and Dance

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**Marilyn Cristofori** <mcristofori@mac.com>

Sat, Oct 10, 2020 at 3:02 PM

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

Cc: mbruno2@hawaii.edu, COVID19@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu, Peter Arnade <parnade@hawaii.edu>, tbrisliln@hawaii.edu, kondo@hawaii.edu, iezzi@hawaii.edu, Betsy Fisher <efisher@hawaii.edu>, wessendo@hawaii.edu

President David Lassner

Provost Michael Bruno

Having read the draft proposal regarding suggestions for Dance and Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM), I thank you for your leadership in seeking solutions to the unexpected challenges to the University of Hawai'i in the near and longer term future. Congratulations on your decisions to begin with your own salary reductions. I offer my support to help to find creative solutions for the health and success of University of Hawai'i and all its surrounding communities. The letter in the Star Advertiser on Oct. 8, 2020 from Betsy Fisher is a stellar example of the core need for the arts in human life. The UHM Dance and Theatre offerings are essential and unique to Hawai'i, its people and to the arts globally. My comments and views emanate from a Stanford University education, guest professorship at Brown University Department of Theatre and Dance, professor emerita -California State University, faculty at nationally renown -Jacobs Pillow and American Dance Festival, EMBA from Shidler, University of Hawai'i and longtime CEO of Hawai'i Arts Alliance. The unique, unmatched diversity, high quality dance education and degrees offered at UHM cannot be, nor will be, found in another location. I urgently urge and encourage you to seek every avenue to retain this jewel that has been grown and refined over the decades. Please let me know how I might be able to assist you during these extraordinary times.

Marilyn Cristofori

BA – Stanford University

MA – Theatre and Dance, California State University

MBA – University of Hawai'i

Professor Emerita, California State University, Chico



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## UHM Dance Program

---

Larry Basch <lbasch@hawaii.edu>

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 6:35 PM

To: 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

Dear Colleagues,

As a scientist you may find it odd that I and many of my colleagues are strongly supportive and passionate about the UHM dance program and the four degree programs within it: BA, BFA, MA, and MFA . The proposed stop out of Dance degrees would, in essence, utterly dismantle the Dance Program, eliminating the only dance degree available for over 2,500 miles and the only one which teaches an globally recognized essential part of the culture of Hawai'i. As you know the UHM Dance Program is within the Dept. of Theatre and Dance in which it is also proposed to stop out the MA and PhD degrees in Theatre. The Dance program also teaches courses to hundreds of non-majors who need such courses to graduate, while providing essential revenue to UH. I understand the need to reduce budgets across the university, in a fair, balanced and thoughtful manner. Unfortunately, as is widely viewed, the proposed stop outs to the Dept. of Theatre and Dance do not appear to be any of these.

Stopping out the Dance Program would mean that students currently in the degree tracks would be allowed to graduate but no new students would enter, and no new faculty hired. With no new students entering, dance courses would not make minimums and students would be directed to substitute courses in other departments which are not relevant, useful, or interesting to students, and which would most surely lead to a lack of interest in and support for UHM, not to mention other unforeseen consequences. Students would not get the educations they signed up for. They also are worried that their degrees would not be valuable from a stopped out program.

UHM Dance graduates populate K-12 dance teaching positions throughout the state and well beyond, they teach dance in the private schools, run and teach in many small businesses—dance schools and hula halau, major tourism entertainment industry destinations and Hawai'i based touring companies that are vital to the economy of Hawai'i. UH is a university, but not without the unique cultural and arts programs that are part of it and that have and will again greatly contribute to the economy of Hawai'i.

UHM Dance offers a long list of Dance courses that train many of the cultural ambassadors and performers who present large, well-liked and supported attractions to locals and visitors alike. The tourism economy will grow again, but not without the talent developed in the UHM Dance program to present the unique and vibrant culture and arts that are essential to our economy and it's resurgence post-pandemic.

I urge you to think about the long term and the big picture, and the economic damage that will be inflicted if the decision is made to stop out the UHM Dance program.

Aloha,

Lawrence V. Basch, Ph.D.

## 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) \***

Katelyn Wyatt

**Your Organization (optional)**

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

wyattk27@hawaii.edu

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

OTHER

**OTHER (Please describe) \***

In regards to the proposed cuts to CALL

**Your Position (required) \***

Oppose

**Your Testimony/Comments**

My name is Katelyn Wyatt. It's the year 2040. I grew up in a small town in Oregon and started dancing at the Regional School of Ballet. I gazed in awe as a child during my dance studios annual performance of The Nutcracker, as the guest artists performed Russian. The guest artists were a local dance company, Rainbow Dance Theatre. I imagined myself dancing one day with them, with little knowledge that this would come true. When attending my undergrad at Western Oregon University I joined Rainbow Dance Theatre under the direction of Valerie Bergman, and Darryl Thomas. I danced with them for seven years touring nationally and internationally. One might say it is destiny that I attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for my masters in fine arts in dance, following the footsteps of my past director Darryl Thomas, who is a UHM dance graduate alumni. Darryl and Valerie created their company Rainbow Dance Theatre while they were living in Hawai'i in 1991. I know from experience that the dance world is a tightly knit community, each place of dance is key to keeping the arts thriving. Hawai'i is an important part of my dance lineage.

My boyfriend grew up in Hawai'i. We met each other during our undergrad at Western Oregon University where we were both dance majors. We moved to Hawai'i in 2017 to help his family. I dove into the dance community after landing in Hawai'i. I started teaching at multiple studios as well as dancing with local dance companies such as IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre. After two years of living in Hawai'i I became a resident of the state. Shortly after I applied to the MFA Dance program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I was ecstatic to continue my education in a place where dance was so well loved and diverse. I often reminisce of my times in Hawai'i and my boyfriend misses his family greatly. We had to move from the home of my boyfriend's family in 2030 due to not being able to find work. Being dancers we could not find work anymore as studios began to shut down, the University of Hawai'i was no longer heiring new dance professors and the local companies no longer exist. If only all those years ago the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa had chosen to not cut all dance programs but the minor. We had hoped to raise our two young children in the place my boyfriend grew up in but there is no longer a place for us in Hawai'i without dance.

We need to remember both science and art are equally important. In words of Mae Carol Jemison an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. "Sciences provide an understanding of a universal experience, Arts are a universal understanding of a personal experience... they are both a part of us and a manifestation of the same thing... the arts and sciences are avatars of human creativity"

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

### Actions

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

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## In Support of UHM Dance

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**Brenner Janis** <janisbren@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 4:15 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, iezzi@hawaii.edu, Fisher Betsy <efisher@hawaii.edu>, wessendo@hawaii.edu

Dear President Lassner,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the possibility of the Dance Department at UHM being eliminated. Artists from all over the US, and indeed the world, are in support of this special, unique and important dance program.

As a touring artist for more than forty years, I have had the fortunate and invigorating experience to collaborate and be in residence at UHM Dance several times, from the 1980's to 2011. In fact, in 2011 I was in residence to re-stage a major dance work of Murray Louis' that had received national support and recognition from the National Endowment for The Arts "American Masterpieces" Grant program, which faculty member and Chair Elizabeth Fisher had secured for UHM Dance. Engaging with the dancers, faculty members and the university was a great pleasure and the dance students did a beautiful job with this historic material expressing great reverence for the opportunity. In the '80's, I toured there as a dancer in the Murray Louis Dance Company, and later was a Guest Artist teaching and performing my own work for the department and the school. Personally, I gained great insight into the culture and traditions of the Hawaiian islands and soon after employed two dancers from the islands in my dance company for many years afterwards. Both of these male dancers have had major, international careers in Dance for decades.

UHM Dance offers a unique perspective, point of view, and opportunities in areas of study that *no other program in the country offers*. To be able to engage with and study everything from Contemporary Dance to Hula, Japanese, Chinese, Hip Hop, Ballet, and Ballroom forms, as well as creative compositional practices and social and theoretical issues, is unprecedented and in today's world, both inside and outside the art world, is part of an essential learning experience. UHM Dance offers all this and more in terms of its scope and reach.

I fully support the efforts to maintain this wonderful, special department. Imagining that it might not exist is indeed a sad and awful prospect.

Please feel free to contact me if you'd like any other information.

Best wishes,  
Janis Brenner

cc. UHM

[www.janisbrenner.com](http://www.janisbrenner.com)

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## UW-Madison letter of support for Dance

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**Andrea Harris** <andrea.harris@wisc.edu>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 4:58 AM

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

Dear Dr. Lassner,

Please find attached a letter of support for the Dance Program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa from the Dance Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We are horrified and saddened by the potential elimination of this program.

Please let me know if you have any trouble with the attachment, or if there is anything else I can provide or do to help with this tragic situation.

Best,

Andrea

Andrea Harris

Associate Professor and Chair

Dance Department

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Pronouns: she/ her/ hers ([what does this mean?](#))



UW.Hawaii Dance.10.2020.pdf

93K



Dear President Lassner,

As the faculty of the home of dance in higher education, we are writing to emphatically support the Dance Program within the Department of Theatre and Dance at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and to urge you to not eliminate the program. In 1926, Margaret H'Doubler, a student of John Dewey and a leader in the Progressive Education movement, established the first undergraduate dance degree in the world in our historic building in Madison, WI, Lathrop Hall, with the understanding that the study of dance is a worthy and holistic preparation for a successful and fulfilling life. For the past century, Margaret H'Doubler's bold, innovative ideas about higher education and the importance of dance pedagogy in the development of healthy individuals and communities, have spread across the globe. Your dance program, also situated in a large, public institution, is an integral part of this legacy of dance in higher education; the elimination of the program would be short-sighted and negligent.

The arts are an essential part of any college or university. They contribute a sense of vitality, interdisciplinarity, community, and creative inquiry not commonly matched in other disciplines. An ample body of research shows that students who study the arts are better prepared to be leaders, team players, and innovators in all fields. Dance offers a uniquely embodied approach, bridging the arts with mental and physical health. All the arts are inextricable in our society, but—let's be clear—the marginalization of dance in higher education is no secret. Are we so deeply cut off from our bodies, suspicious of oral tradition, and still beholden to implicit biases against women that we allow ourselves to prioritize one art form over the other?

Dance students learn a myriad of transferable skills, including problem-solving, collaboration, creativity, self-awareness, and resilience, in addition to the many physical benefits resulting from regular, reflective movement practice. Situated strategically between Asia and the US continent, the specific contributions of your university's dance program on a global scale are unique. For decades, students have been drawn from all over the world to study dance at the University of Hawai'i because of an invaluable cultural diversity and breadth of offerings, including dance traditions from the Asia-Pacific to the contemporary. Hawai'i's own esteemed kumu hula (master teachers of hula), modern dance masters including Betty Jones & Fritz Ludin (Humphrey/Limon techniques), and a lively diversity of contemporary companies, including the Iona Pear Butoh company and the Kikunobu Dance Company (Japanese dance forms), have all been a part of dance at Hawai'i.

A campus without dance, specifically a flagship, without dance, is a sad, lifeless, and disembodied campus. A state without a dance major is a tragedy. Every one of your students deserves the benefits of rigorous, corporeal inquiry offered by a robust dance program. In this time of global crisis, we have received clear feedback from our students and have observed through our own teaching that the practice and performance of dance - remote, hybrid or face2face - answers their need for community, communication, and the opportunity to creatively

#### **Dance Department**

University of Wisconsin–Madison 1050 University Avenue Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
608-262-1691 [www.dance.wisc.edu](http://www.dance.wisc.edu)



experience their own bodies moving in a rooted way in their own environment. The study of dance is meeting their deep hunger for coherent strategies to obtain and sustain the balance of their physical, psychological well-being. We beg you to give this matter the weighty consideration it warrants. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any more information or context.

Cordially,

*Andrea Harris*

Andrea Harris, PhD, GL-CMA  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Dance Department  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
andrea.harris@wisc.edu  
608-772-4324



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## Testimony for meeting on 10/15/20

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Jill guillermo-togawa <jguillermotogawa@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu  
Cc: Home <jguillermotogawa@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Written Testimony submitted for:

### UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF REGENTS Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Jill Guillermo-Togawa

Including the future in our vision in the present

Aloha e Regents of the Board of the University of Hawai'i,

Mahalo nui, for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Department of Theatre and Dance. I have chosen to ask you to look ahead with me for a few minutes, to the year 2040, 20 years from now.

In September, 2040, as I sit in my studio and reflect on my long career as a dancer, choreographer, and Alexander teacher, I find myself wondering if I have been living a long, waking dream.

I still work with students at UH Manoa, but I do not teach dancers who want to have a career as dancers. There is no longer an MFA program in Dance, so in my graduate level classes, I don't ever work with a dancer. Before the Theatre and Dance programs were drastically altered in 2020, I still loved walking into Kennedy Theatre and felt a sense of belonging and pride in returning as an alumnus of the dance program. There was still a sense of a community of artists in an academic setting. Because a University is not whole without its creative dreamers that are its heart.

As a student in the early days of the dance department, our director Carl Wolz brought many professional dancers from New York companies to teach advanced classes and set repertory that local dancers performed at Kennedy Theatre. Some of them encouraged me, a local Japanese girl, to go to New York to dance. Their encouragement gave me confidence to travel alone for the first time, to live in New York and find my own way.

That decision led to my dancing professionally in New York and California, and later founding my own company in San Francisco to illuminate the experiences of lesbians and women of color. I can't imagine any of this happening without my training at UH, which rooted my commitment to being a dancer for the rest of my life. I was always proud to tell dancers and choreographers I worked with, that I was a graduate of UHM.

I am reflecting on the many years I lived on the continent, because there were not enough opportunities for me to support myself as a dancer here. Yet, it was my experience here, that was always present as I looked for work as an Asian American dancer and choreographer. I wonder how many young Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Asian dancers gave up on their dreams or couldn't even begin to dream of being a dancer because the environment at UH was so unique. In 2020, if you were in the Theatre and Dance department, you could blossom as a dancer, complete the main part of your education and enjoy extensive performance experience, before going out into the larger world where you may be in the minority and viewed differently. Having the ground and base established at UHM could make all the difference in your future.

Today I wonder, did I only dream being here before? Did the productions I was part of, and went to see my students perform in ever happen? Because now, it would be hard for anyone to tell that Kennedy Theatre was ever a showcase for Dance, Hula, Theatre, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian productions from the Theatre and Dance Department a long time ago.

I think about how in 2020, the arts seemed more expendable and less vital than other programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. And I am drawn back again to my time at UH, when I wrote a paper in the 1970's, about the preciousness of dance in our lives, precisely because we cannot describe its intrinsic value in words. An eerie foreshadowing of something I was trying to bring into the light, even then.

*Jill Guillermo-Togawa*

she/they

Alexander Technique Honolulu

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Name Camryn DuBose

Email camryndubose@gmail.com

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.

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

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

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

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Signature

Name: Camryn DuBose

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Name Brian Wong

Email brianywong123@gmail.com

Phone Number (646) 4640773

Date 09-17-2020

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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Signature

Name: Brian Wong

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 38 Monroe Street  
State / Province: New York  
Country: United States

Name Rebecca Madera

Email rrrmadera@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 5518561

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  
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Signature

Name: Rebecca Madera

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: Honolulu  
State / Province: Hawaii

Name chloe ishikawa

Email chloeishikawa1@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 4998878

Date 08-20-1999

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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Signature

Name: chloe ishikawa

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
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State / Province: ewa beach  
Country: United States

Name Kristeen Lopez

Email tkfan2254@gmail.com

Phone Number (719) 8499904

Date 09-16-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

It is wrong on so many levels to propose cuts to programs that help so many. No administrator should be making more than \$150, 000 per year, even that amount is outrageous.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kristeen Lopez

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 107 E 11th  
State / Province: Creede, CO  
Country: United States

Name Amy Waikiki Kahooohanohano

Email pohaikalem@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3191002

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  
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Signature

Name: Amy Waikiki Kahoochanohano

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Garden Grove  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Kelly Wadlegger

Email kwadlegger@iaoschool.com

Phone Number (808) 6704756

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

By cutting the theatre and dance program you



Name	Kevin Sosa
Email	kevin.sosa93@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(516) 2692981
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	<p>To: UHM President David President Lassner</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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).</p> <p>To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>-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.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree</p>
Letter Body:	

Name Angelia Thurston

Email peaches.thurston@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 9545000

Date 09-16-2020

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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: Angelia Thurston

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 47-743 Lamaula Place  
State / Province: Kaneohe, HI  
Country: United States

Name Ashley Miyata

Email ashleymiyta@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2863088

Date 08-25-2005

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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Name Candace Fujikane

Email fujikane@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 393-5234

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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Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree

Name Melissa Ly  
Email melissa.ly25@gmail.com  
Phone Number (808) 8088889265

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  
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Signature

Name:	Meliss Ly
I am a UH Manoa:	Supporter
Name	Gracie Orallo
Email	gorallo@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(509) 6300228
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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Signature

Name: Gracie Orallo

Address  
City: 2591 Dole Street  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name	Cara Percoco
Email	carapercoco@yahoo.com
Phone Number	((407) 373-5618) (407) 373-5618
Date	09-16-2020
Letter Heading	<p>To: UHM President David President Lassner</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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).</p> <p>To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>-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.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree</p>
Letter Body:	



Name Brooke Tuitele

Email nytenurse4@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 8409759

Date 02-24-1984

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin  
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Signature

Name: Brooke Tuitele

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: 45-265 William Henry road apt C12  
State / Province: Kaneohe  
Country: United States

Name Jonathan Waikiki

Email coachwaikiki@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 7969696

Date 09-16-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small

Name	Molly Hagmann
Email	molly@hawaiiantel.net
Phone Number	(808) 3847198
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  
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Signature

Name: Molly Hagmann

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

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

Name Kayla Tam

Email kaylatam@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3861188

Date 02-17-2000

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David President Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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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: Kayla Tam

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
City: 250 Kawaihae st.  
State / Province: Honolulu, Hi  
Country: United States

Name	Noah Wille
Email	noahwille@gmail.com
Phone Number	(619) 9803207
Date	05-10-2001
Letter Heading	<p>To: UHM President David President Lassner</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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).</p> <p>To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>-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.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree</p>
Letter Body:	

Name Corbett Stern

Email cstern@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3518972

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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Signature

Name: Corbett Stern

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: 723 Nunu Street  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Phylicia Murray

Email phylicianmurray@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3665763

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

Aloha,

I'm a student at UH Manoa. Though my department is not included, I find it very important to save The dance and theater programs. Since I was 9 years old, I've been exposed to the arts(dance, theater..etc) and have seen the affects performing arts programs have on the youth and communities in general. In order for public schools to gain access to performing arts instructors, the instructors are required to have a BA or MA in order to teach in the first place.

Please take a look at your options and find alternative ways to keep these programs going. UH should not just be focusing on

the programs that bring in money.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Phylicia Murray

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 95-549 Naholoholo st.  
State / Province: Hawaii 96789  
Country: United States

Name Keely Thompson

Email keely\_thompson@brown.edu

Phone Number (808) 3411128

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  
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Name: Keely Thompson

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Kaniela Lavarias

Email kanielal@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7996739

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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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:	Student
Address	Country: United States
Name	Kimberly Shire
Email	kshire@carroll.edu
Phone Number	(503) 8040151
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.

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Please add your additional comments:

I plan to return to UHM for a PhD in theatre. Please don't cut the program that makes it possible for me to complete my studies at my alma mater.



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: Kimberly Shire

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 5491 Mojave Court  
State / Province: Helena, MT  
Country: United States

Name Kainoa Keanaaina

Email kainoa3@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7215497

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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Signature

Name: Kainoa Keanaaina

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name                      Tevin Cayetano

Email                     TevinC@hawaii.edu

Phone Number         (808) 7824120

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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Letter Body:           Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree



Name Nohealani Waikiki

Email nahemaka808@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3439715

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  
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Signature

Name: Nohealani Waikiki

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 87-123 Helekula Place, Waianae 96792  
State / Province: HAWAII  
Country: United States

Name	Chaslynn Uyetake
Email	cmu411@icloud.com
Phone Number	(808) 8291539
Date	04-11-2005
Letter Heading	<p>To: UHM President David President Lassner</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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).</p> <p>To take the place of the elimination of these degree programs, instead, I urge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>-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.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree</p>
Letter Body:	

Name Margaret Phillips

Email maggienp@swbell.net

Phone Number (817) 2961076

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:

I am the parent of six children. Four are engineers/computer people. One has a liberal arts degree. The critical thinking skills learned allowed for a transition to project management in high tech.

The sixth, whose SATs were actually higher than all of his siblings is a professional dancer. For him, combining dance in a university environment allowed for the nurturing of the same critical thinking skills and academic enrichment that have made him a more well rounded professional than peers who have only conservatory training.

And his creative bent provided a different perspective for fellow students and professors in his academic classes.

Your university environment and experience would be diminished if you eliminated the theater & dance programs.

I have had the privilege to know and work with UHM alum whose contributions to our community can be directly traced to the university theater education she received at UHM

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Margaret Phillips

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Creede  
State / Province: Colorado  
Country: United States

Name                    jessica marutani

Email                    jess.marutani@gmail.com

Phone Number        (808) 6839318

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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Letter Body:            Proposals to cut these programs identify "small

Name Kaulani Chun

Email kaulaniichun@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 4530322

Date 03-20-2003

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  
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Signature

Name: Kauilani Chun

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 1171 Kaumailuna Place  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Heather Lee

Email hopelesslylittleham@hotmail.com

Date 09-16-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Associate Dean of CALL, Tom Brislin  
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Signature

Name: Heather Lee

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Skye Maxwell

Email skyesk@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 5974284

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

Name: Skye Maxwell

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 880 Maluniu Ave  
State / Province: Kailua  
Country: United States

Name Persephone Lawrence

Email persephone.l.w@gmail.com

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  
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Signature

Name: Persephone Lawrence

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Jovelle Lucas

Email jocollectives@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 5970680

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reasoning to "stop-out" certain degree

Name Brianna Nakano

Email nakano3@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 9906870

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I understand the struggles the University must be having due to covid-19. However, dance and theatre is an important part of many cultures. Hawai'i is one of the few places that has such a unique mixing of cultures, and UH is probably the only University in the US that offers quality courses on the Pacific. I know that UH is the only University in the US to offer Okinawan dance.

Letter Body:

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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

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Signature

Name: Brianna Nakano

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Drake Lee

Email drakelee@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2954682

Date 12-23-1998

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Please add your additional comments:

I've taken Theatre, and I thoroughly enjoyed the class and expanded my horizon. I acted in my own small play and loved learning about the theatre and the history 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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Signature

Name: Drake Lee

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 1335 Ala Mahamoe St  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Kalama Kalai-Morales

Email kalamakm@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7960039

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

We must preserve the culture and knowledge of theatre with the next generation of students. Cutting these programs will be a major setback for many students and professors within this field of study.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kalama Kalai-Morales

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
City: 3514 Upper St  
State / Province: Honolulu  
Country: United States

Name Sara Bogomolny

Email slb148@case.edu

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  
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Signature

Name: Sara Bogomolny

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Kamryn Ziegler

Email kamryn.ziegler@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3973770

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  
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Signature

Name: Kamryn Ziegler

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Priya Zollo

Email priyapuameliazollo@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7974796

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  
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Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Signature

Name: Priya Zollo

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 2156 Auhuhu st  
State / Province: Pearl City  
Country: United States

Name Rhys Ragasa

Email rhysr@hawaii.edi

Phone Number (808) 7219936

Date 05-19-1997

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

Religion is not dying. Secularization theories have been purposed for thousands of years, yet all predictions have failed to come true. Religions are integral to societal formations. Hawai'i has a rich religious history, and it deserves attention. Religious beliefs continue to shape not only our island but America and the world. New religious movements are prevalent and impactful. This purge will not merely hurt the department, it will hurt our understanding of Us.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Rhys Ragasa

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Please save Dance at UH. Arts in colleges are very important and the program at UH means a lot to me and a lot of other people

Name Jayme Henna

Email juyetake@hotmail.com

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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Please add your additional comments:

Please save the dance program here in Hawaii! We enjoy watching them perform. My daughter looks up to these UH dancers as she has participated with them during the UH basketball games.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Jayme Henna

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States



Name camryn chinen

Email camrynchinen@gmail.com

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member



Name Jonte Sing

Email jplani97@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2253267

Date 09-20-1997

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher  
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Signature

Name: Jonte Sing

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Kaneohe  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Ava Furukawa

Email avafurukawa21@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 5180317

Date 07-20-2003

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  
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 currently a senior in high school. Due to this situation we are experiencing at this time, I may have to attend UH Manoa. If I do stay, I won't be able to major in dance, something I am strongly passionate about. Not only does it affect the current students but it will affect the future generations that also want to major in these programs





Name Dorothy Ward

Email dorothyw@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3542129

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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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.

Name Tia Williams

Email kealohi.williams@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3874267

Date 09-17-2020

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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Letter Body:

Name	Crystal Boyce
Email	cboyce@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(808) 6004375
Date	09-24-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Brunson  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnold  
Associate Dean of CALL, Tom  
Associate Dean of CALL, Kim  
Kondo-Brown  
Associate Chair of Theatre,  
Elizabeth  
lezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Elizabeth  
Fisher  
Chair of Theatre and Dance  
Wessendorf  
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-The implementation of UH  
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Dance degree programs with  
College of Arts, Languages,  
Letters.

Letter Body: Proposals to cut these programs identify "small size" as the reason to "stop-out" certain degree programs, however despite UHM's overall enrollment being as much as a third of peer and benchmark 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 news of your plans to preserve the Dance and Theatre degree. I hope an ongoing conversation with the community you have been trying to serve.

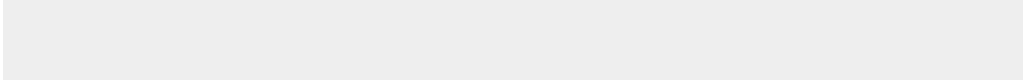
Name: Crystal Boyce

I am a UH  
Manoa: Student

Address Country: United States



Signature



Name:

Tia Williams

I am a UH Manoa:

Supporter

Name Vanessa Morro

Email vfmorro@yahoo.com

Phone Number (917) 2940766

Date 09-17-2020

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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Name Tiffany Waikiki

Email waikikit@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (800) 6999449

Date 12-15-1999

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  
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Signature

Name: Tiffany Waikiki

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 747 University Ave #207  
State / Province: Honolulu, HI  
Country: United States

Name Tiara Rapp

Email tiarahealani@gmail.com

Phone Number (1) 8083892797

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Tiara Rapp

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Las Vegas  
State / Province: NV  
Country: United States

Name Loretta Chen

Email [loretta@loretta-chen.com](mailto:loretta@loretta-chen.com)

Phone Number (808) 9908300

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  
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Signature

Name: Loretta Chen

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 1272 Lunalilo Home Road Honolulu  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Zoë Sprott

Email zsprott@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2324001

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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Name: Zoë Sprott

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
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State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

ame Jessica Kamau-Waikiki

Email jwaikiki@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3816811

Date 03-16-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Please save the Arts!

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Jessica Kamau-Waikiki

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address  
City: PO BOX 620  
State / Province: Kaneohe  
Country: United States

Name Sofia Reyes

Email sofiaar@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 6365050

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

The loss of this important aspect of our community's culture will affect all aspects of our university and our island. There are other ways to keep UH Manoa alive than to sacrifice our theatre and dance programs.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Sofia Reyes

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 95-1107 Wikao St.  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Dear President Lassner, BOR Regents, Deans, Chairs, Administrators and Educators

I hope this email finds you well.

I wrote this attached proposal for Leeward and Waianae Moku after hearing news of UHM's possible intentions to cut the Dance department.

As I am not from Hawaii nor am I familiar with UHM, I wrote from the perspective of being an instructor for the last 4 years as well as the coordinator of the newly launched Performing Arts Certificate at Leeward and Waianae Moku.

I wish to maintain that I wrote this unsolicited so I take full responsibility for the ideas expressed.

While my focus is on the preservation of the performing arts as a whole, I drew references from the theater as that is my background and can speak to that most authentically.

I am aware the discussion at hand is on Dance but I decided to send this during these perilous, difficult times as I hope there are salient points that I may have raised that are relevant to the discussion at hand.

I thank you for your time.

Warmest Regards

Loretta Tan

Name Jillian Corn

Email jgcorn@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (951) 7040644

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  
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Name: Jillian Corn

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
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State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Leilani Lockwood

Email llockwo@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (650) 5207092

Date 09-16-2020

Letter Heading

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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Leilani Lockwood

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Noni Slade

Email nonislade22@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 9878065

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  
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Signature

Name: Noni Slade

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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State / Province: Hawaii/96795  
Country: United States

Name Sally Davis Kaniho

Email kaleidavis@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 258-1432

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

This is a vital program!!! Keep Theater and dance!!

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Sally Davis Kaniho

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 1511 Thurston Ave Honolulu  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Jondi Anderson

Email jkapua@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 2471367

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Please add your additional comments:

My daughter looks forward to attending UHM and majoring in dance!

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Jondi Andersom

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 45-189 Namoku St  
State / Province: Hawai'i  
Country: United States

Name Troy Apostol

Email troyapostol@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3420469

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  
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Name: Troy Apostol

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Sabrina Ponciano

Email sabrina\_ponciano\_6@hotmail.com

Phone Number (702) 8833222

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  
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Signature

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: PO Box 1835  
State / Province: Idaho  
Country: United States

Name Zoey Simmons

Email zoeycs@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2224070

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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Signature

Name: Zoey Simmons

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
City: Mililani  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

When I saw one of my cohort post on social media about the dance program at your institution was at risk of being defunded, my heart fell to the floor.

My grandmother was native Hawaiian, a first generation mainlander. She moved to San Francisco after being given to her neighbors during WWII when she was just a child. She was so grateful for her light skin because it saved her from the relentless teasing her adopted Hawaiian siblings regularly experienced. She learned early on that there was not room to be proud of her heritage in San Francisco. She spent her entire life trying to be a picture perfect American. At the end of her life, she clung so tightly to her Hawaiian roots. She picked up her ukulele again and danced hula as best as she could.

She taught me how to play ukulele, how to strum "island style" as she liked to stay. I wish there were more people like my grandmother, but there aren't. Less and less people in the world have indigenous Hawaiian connection. The dance program at your school is more important than you could ever imagine. Dancers like the ones your school produces keeps Hawaiian culture alive, and allow it to be celebrated by the whole world.

I attached a video of my grandmother playing ukulele just weeks before she passed. I also attached a photo of my auntie who now lives for hula as a result of her mother's passion and desire to keep Hawaiian culture alive in our family. PLEASE consider cutting any other program than this one. For the sake of my ohana, for the sake of my grandmother, and for the preservation of Hawaiian culture.

Mike Barnes

Name Kame Ruiz

Email kameru808@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3889300

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  
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Signature

Name: Kame Ruiz

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 45-213 William Henry Road  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Lyndsey Matsuura

Email lyndseymat@gmail.com

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I had graduated from UH Manoa with a BA in Dance. And i have learned so much in my years working with the teachers and other students. Not only have i learned to grow in skill and create movements, it helped to grow me as a person today in how i teach and work with others. I continue to dance and teach others through music, hoping that it will help encourage others as it did for me.

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Signature

Name: Lyndsey Matsuura

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address Country: United States

HI-

I love the quote Julie pulled. I also just skimmed her paper

Name Jenn Fachan

Email jenniferfachan@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3976777

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Jenn Fachan

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 8060 16th Ave. NW, Seattle  
State / Province: WA  
Country: United States

Name Kristi Sakaguchi

Email kristi.sakaguchi@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2307492

Date 09-28-1996

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Signature

Name:	Kristi Sakaguchi
I am a UH Manoa:	Supporter
Address	City: 47-744 Hui Kelu St Apt 4 State / Province: Kaneohe Country: United States

Name	Blaze Santana
Email	blaze.santana214@gmail.com

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  
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I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Yu-Fen Huang

Email yfhuang@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2265050

Date 05-30-1989

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  
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Signature

Name: Yu-Fen Huang

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name Azusa Takahashi

Email azusat@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3921625

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

Name:	Azusa Takahashi
I am a UH Manoa:	Alumni
Address	City: 3138 Waialae Ave. #813 State / Province: HI Country: United States

Name	Alyssa Zhang
Date	09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Alyssa Zhang

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address Country: United States

Name Cynthia See

Email clsee0912@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2274325

Date 09-12-1956

Letter Heading

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Cynthia See

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: 914 21st Avenue  
State / Province: Honolulu, Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Stella Ramis

Email stellamr@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (409) 7500348

Date 09-17-2020



Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Stella Ramos

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 431 SW Juniper Ave  
State / Province: Oregon  
Country: United States

Name Robert Conner

Email thumpers77@sbcglobal.net

Phone Number (510) 7271284

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Robert Conner

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 651 Gisler Way  
State / Province: Hayward Ca  
Country: United States



Name Ken Probst

Email probstka@gmail.com

Phone Number (315) 8791700

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

UH has a long, proud history of theater, especially Theater for Young Audiences. The Theater for Young Audiences department is one of the finest in the country. In 2008, I moved from New York to Honolulu with my wife for her to earn her MFA from UH. After she earned her degree, we ended up in Florida. After she had her first interview with a theater, she called me and said "it felt more like they were

Name Kim Nelson

Email kimnelson1963@yahoo.com

Phone Number (910) 5266695

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

As the mother of a graduate of the MFA program, I implore you to withdraw these proposed cuts.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kim Nelson

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 312 Preakness Lane, Sneads Ferry  
State / Province: North Carolina  
Country: United States

Name Alissa Elegant

Email alissa.elegant@gmail.com

Phone Number (510) 5202011

Date 06-11-2020

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:

Your programs are very special serving the whole nation. They are the only dance and theater programs in the entire country that has a focus on Asian performance. In this moment of diversity crisis in the United States, it would be foolish to deny Asian American Hawaiians and Asian Americans from other parts of the U.S. a place where they can learn performance forms that center Asian culture. Most programs in the U.S. devalue Asian forms and only teach modern, ballet and maybe African diasporic dance. This is not the time to take away one of the only dance programs in the country that de-centers whiteness.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Alissa Elegant

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: Berkeley  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Gillian Canacci

Email Gillianc5132@gmail.com

Phone Number (330) 5035887

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name:	Gillian Canacci
I am a UH Manoa:	Supporter
Address	City: 716 Golfview Avenue State / Province: Ohio/Youngstown Country: United States

Name	Kersha Taitano
Date	09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Ka'ilialoha Dias-Blake

Email kailidiasblake@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3479705

Date 11-18-1997

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

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Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Ka'ilialoha Dias-Blake

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Savannah Evans

Email savannah.g.evans@gmail.com

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name:

Savannah Evans

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Name Anna R

Email dazzodork@yahoo.com

Phone Number (407) 9345823

Date 09-17-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name Muna Barreh

Email ms.blueglitter@gmail.com

Phone Number (512) 8068517

Date 08-16-2000

Letter Heading To:  
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CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:	Supporter
Name	Temple Douglass
Email	templedouglass@gmail.com
Phone Number	(706) 5360967
Date	09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Temple Douglass

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Athens  
State / Province: Georgia  
Country: United States

Name Simone Culwell

Email simonecollett@gmail.com

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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Name: Simons Culwell

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Dallas  
State / Province: TX  
Country: United States

Name Lani Winskye

Email lani.winskye@gmail.com

Phone Number (727) 5807587

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

As an MFA graduate, I urge you to reconsider your push to cut Theatre and Dance programs. UHM's program is culturally diverse both in faculty and offerings, which is so vital in our current world climate of anger and fear. UHM offers Asian-Pacific culture based teaching that can not be found elsewhere. I feel that by suggesting these cuts you are devaluing my degree and those of my colleagues, and indeed devaluing the name of your University. As a student who lives in both the white and Asian Pacific Islander cultures, I urge you to keep these programs alive. The body of the letter below contains sentiments that I strongly agree with and I hope you will read them with an open mind and take them to heart. There is much more at stake here than just the University's financial stability.

And as one of the graduate students who taught the 100 level courses while at UHM, shame on you for so devaluing my work and that of my professors who prepared me to be able to teach those courses.

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Signature

Name: Lani Winskye

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 514 Siobhan Court  
State / Province: FL  
Country: United States

Name Alex Peniera

Email alexpeniera@gmail.com

Phone Number (516) 7764802

Date 11-07-1990



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  
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Name: Alex Peniera

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Earricka Farmer

Letter Heading

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UHM President David Lassner

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Name Holly Cano

Email hcano0966@yahoo.com

Phone Number (650) 4403389

Date 09-17-2020

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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Please add your additional comments:

Although i understand your reasons for thinking that making cuts to certain classes is necessary, I'm gonna have to strongly disagree as every class is just as important as the next. Why? Because. Every student is just as important stage next and not every student has the same interests.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Holly Cano

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Kaneohe  
State / Province: Hawai'i  
Country: United States

Name Adele Furukawa

Email ahfurukawa@yahoo.com

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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Please add your additional comments:

My daughter is currently a high school senior in Hawaii and has been training in dance for the past 12 years. It is very disheartening to learn that the dance degrees at UH may be eliminated. Covid-19 has understandably changed the outlook for the University but the dance program will evolve as well. Inevitably, it will adapt to accommodate new challenges brought on by Covid and incorporate digital means to showcase the Arts while social distancing guidelines are in place. Performing Arts are very much alive and will continue to be a vital part of society. Even though your focus may be to graduate more students with health and STEM degrees, you cannot ignore the importance of the Arts as part of everyday life for ALL. Please do continue to offer major degrees in the Arts to produce professionals who can satisfy society's need. Amidst current challenges in the community and world, we still need the Arts to provide some relief, some enjoyment that is necessary in life.

Letter Body:

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Name Celeste Staton

Email statonc001@hawaii.rr.com

Phone Number (8086401358) 8086401358

Date 09-17-2020

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CC:  
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Please add your additional comments:

My son is a dance professional because of this program. It is imperative to continue for our local and exchange students. This is a quality education important to our culture.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Celeste Staton

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Volcano  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Milan Ragasa

Email milanr@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7690111

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

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CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

As a former student of the UHM dance program, I have been able to make connections with other dancers who have introduced me to Oahu's dance community. Without meeting them, I would probably not have continued dance in a foreign environment. It is crucial for other dancers like me who are new to Oahu.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Milan Ragasa

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Dear UH President David Lassner

My name is Marie Kuroda. I am an undergraduate alumni (2009) of the Theater and Dance department at UH Manoa.

I am writing to show my support for the Theater and Dance undergraduate and MFA degrees.

The university theater and dance department is a vital place for local, national and international research, communication and growth. Hawaii is a unique location in the Pacific where east and west meet. In a time of great tension between nations, the arts and humanities provide a way for peaceful exchange

of knowledge and power. Theater and Dance are an international language that can be understood by anybody in the world.

Because of my education at the UH Manoa Theater and Dance Department I am able to currently work in Tokyo, Japan in a local performing arts organization that performs and works internationally. I believe that my work is making the world more peaceful and providing understanding between different cultures through artistic opportunities.

I encourage you to believe in the power that arts and humanities have to produce future leaders with a background in theater and dance. They will bring people together and create opportunities for local, national and international growth in every sector vital to the economic health of a community.

Sincerely,

Marie Kuroda

1-19-5 201 Takanawa Minato-ku

Tokyo, Japan 1080074

**From:** Jean McIntosh <Jean-McIntosh@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Subject:** Email in Support of the Asian Dance Theater  
**Date:** September 16, 2020 at 10:52:35 AM HST  
**To:** Kirstin Pauka <kpauka@gmail.com>

Kirstin, The following is what I would like to say to the UH Administration regarding budget cuts to the UH Dance Program. Please include this in your petition if that is OK (I will be happy to get any feedback to make the case more effectively).

I was disturbed to read in the newspaper of the pending cuts to many programs at University of Hawaii, due to reduced revenue. The arts are of special interest to me. I had the wonderful experience of attending a performance of The Last King of Bali at the UH Kennedy Theatre last year. If the Asian Arts program were not part of the Dance program, I would not have had this unique opportunity. UH is uniquely situated to offer both under graduate and PHD programs in Asian Theatre. I urge that these programs be maintained to support the cultural diversity of our state by bringing grants, international students and prestige to our community.

Thank you.

Jean McIntosh  
250 Kawaihae St.  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Jean-McIntosh@hawaii.rr.com

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  
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Name Kelly Dahilig  
Email kellydahilig@gmail.com  
Phone Number (808) 2552630

Date 09-17-2020

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UHM President David Lassner  
  
CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Name Kaia Fazio

Email kaiasiena123@gmail.com

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Signature

Name Marian Barr

Email mariah.barr00@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 4257088

Date 09-17-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Signature

Name Kyson Kai

Email kysonkai@student.midpac.edu

Phone Number (96821) 8087535954

Date 08-03-2004

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  
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Signature

Name: Kyson Kai

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Honolulu, Hawaii  
State / Province: 906 Waiholo Street  
Country: United States

Name Peter Rockford Espiritu

Email tau804@mac.com

Phone Number (808) 8241151

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

As an internationally recognized dancer, teacher and choreographer who continues to create and work globally, I represent a very small group of professional indigenous artists in our global village. As a native Hawaiian who is a benefactor of the University of Hawaii, specifically the Dance department starting at the small but relevant Leeward Community College program in 1982. I am living proof of the worth of these programs. I myself continue to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of other lives from Hana to Tokyo, and Alaska to Fiji. I continue to work with the Lili'uokalani Trust Arts programming to large corporations like Disney. I am one of thousands of artists who have benefited from the education offered at the University of Hawaii Dance & Theater program. I am proud to say as an alumni, UH got me the job that I love and the life that I live! Malama Pono, Tau

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Peter Rockford Espiritu

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 98-267 Hekaha Street  
State / Province: Aiea, Hawai'i  
Country: United States

Name Nate Hodges

Email nhodges@unr.edu

Phone Number (949) 6339772

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I am an Assistant Teaching Professor of Dance at the University of Nevada, Reno. I urge you NOT to cut the UH dance programs. The dance program is renowned nationally and serves as a unique pedagogical perspective with and for the dance community in America. 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, and from a state that also receives a significant amount of its budget from tourism and entertainment, I understand the incredible fiscal impact the university is experiencing. However, dance's academic offerings impact and enrich our communities, regions, and nation; reinforces and explores the heart and humanity within other academic fields; and establishes your commitment to equity to all fields of academic study even ones that focus on the body. 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.

Sincerely,  
Nate Hodges  
Assistant Teaching Professor - Dance  
University of Nevada, Reno

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Nate Hodges

Address  
City: 766 West St.  
State / Province: Reno, NV  
Country: United States

Good afternoon,

I am sending this letter in support of saving Dance at the University of Hawaii. This is an incredible program that homes necessary and important art and artists, as well as all the incredible people that work with, as, and related to Dance at UH.

Best,  
Mikay Parsons  
Assistant Director of Debate  
San Diego State University

Name Cameron Diato

Email cdiato@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (951) 5955741

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Cameron Diato

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Eve Sanders

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

Phone Number (808) 779-7830

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

My name is Eve Walstrum Sanders. I was a lecturer of ballet for many years at UH at Manoa. I was very taken back that the Theater and Dance programs would possibly be cut. They are such terrific programs. On a personal level, Dance is so important to the students to possibly be professional dancers. Dance so helps students to better understand themselves and use their imagination through movement. Dance comes from the Heart!

Thank You  
Eve

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Eve Sanders

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Las Vegas  
State / Province: NV  
Country: United States

Name Marielle Magdirila

Email mariellemagdirila@yahoo.com

Phone Number (96797) 8327451028

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Marielle Magdirila

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 94-418 Loaa St  
State / Province: Hawaii

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Email ktomines@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3882946

Date 10-04-2001

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Signature

Name: krizel tomines

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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Country: United States

Name Davellen Tenn

Email daveyrosado@gmail.com

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Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

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I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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Country: United States

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Phone Number (808) 3924674

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David 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 am a graduate from the UH dance program- it provides me countless job opportunities immediately upon graduation. It has brought so much joy to my life.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kehaulani Abiva

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

Name Paul Maley

Email pmaley@midpac.edu

Phone Number (808) 3499782

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Please add your additional comments:

I received my MA in Dance from UH Manoa following a professional career in ballet and modern dance with the Nikolais Dance Theatre, the North Carolina Dance Theatre, and the Atlanta Ballet. I was a lecturer in Dance at UH Manoa for 21 years. I am currently the Dance Program Head at Mid-Pacific Institute. Five of the current full time dance faculty at Mid-Pacific have degrees in dance from UHM. Many Mid-Pacific graduates have received degrees from the UHM department of Theatre and Dance. The stop/out of dance and theatre degrees will force students to leave Hawaii to receive degrees in these fields. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision and acknowledge the validity of these degree programs.

Letter Body:

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Name: Paul Maley

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

Name Areerat Worawongwasu

Email aree@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 6704825

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Areerat Worawongwasu

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Carla Guajardo

Email carlita5291@yahoo.com

Phone Number (951) 8377819

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Carla Guajardo

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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Country: United States

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Phone Number (808) 3483984

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Signature

Name: Laule'a Akana-Phillips

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Waianae  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Angela Sebastian

Email anjsebasti@gmail.com

Phone Number (313) 2659011

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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: Angela Sebastian

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Name Brittnie Aguilar

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Phone Number (808) 2585079

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name Jenniefer Corpuz

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Phone Number (808) 2245910

Date 09-17-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Name Amy Redmond Waran

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Phone Number (831) 3132302

Date 09-17-2020

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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Amy Waran

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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State / Province: California  
Country: United States

Name Annastasia Fiala-Watkins

Email alfgapp@gmail.com

Phone Number (615) 4959080

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Please add your additional comments:

The UH Theatre and Dance Dept does so much and without hesitation. There is so much money wasted by UH Manoa, but it's not in the Theatre and Dance Dept. As a previous UH Manoa Theatre and Dance MFA, I was on campus from sunrise to well past sunset along with many of my colleagues (undergrads and grads). We work harder than any other major. For my three years there, I can't recall a single day that was less than at least 10hrs of work, usually more, and I would gladly do it again. We also collaborate with other departments. We work with the nursing Dept to help their students learn how to work with ACTUAL people and learn bedside manner. We work with ACM to help their students understand all sides of their creations by working with trained actors and voice actors. I've held workshops with the animation students and actors to help the animators understand and implement emotion, believable behavior, and more into their characters. If you cut the arts you are merely stating that you don't respect us or what we do. If that's what you want to do then fine. Don't ever watch a movie or a play, don't ever dance, don't ever listen to music, or anything related to art. If you can't support us while we are trying to grow and learn, then you don't deserve to enjoy what we create after endless days of hard work. Artists are the ones keeping us all sane during this crazy time (movies, music, TV, Netflix, Hulu, etc). We need your support now more than ever. If you cut from the arts you are telling ME, an alum, that my degree means nothing and that you just took money from me because you could. Don't be another university that makes the mistake of killing so many hopes and dreams by cutting the arts. Make a difference and support us. Show your students you care.

Here is some insight into what theatre and dance has been up to since March from Dr. Lurana Donnels O'Malley.

"The UHM Department of Theatre and Dance has been kicking ASS since March. Transforming dozens of performing arts classes online in the blink of an eye. Design/tech staff partnering with the Medical School to spearhead a mask-sewing effort. Actors partnering with Nursing students to train contact tracers. Faculty taking webinar after webinar about online teaching methods. Faculty/staff developing much-needed Anti-Racism Action Plan for department over summer. Students re-thinking and re-vivifying Late Night. Faculty & staff taking webinar after webinar on strategies for online performance broadcasting. And over the last two weeks, multiple emergency meetings with students, faculty, staff because the University is proposing to cut us. Stellar organizing by students.

But what I really want to say is while this is all going on, our faculty/staff/students are working away to bring you SIX online productions this fall. SIX. That means actors, dancers, choreographers, directors, costume/wigs/makeup designers, scenic and props designers, fight choreographers, puppet builders, lighting designers, stage managers, tech crew, and more. All exploring new technologies, rising to meet challenges with creativity, safety, and hard, hard work.

1. Getting Ready for Eddie! (mini-video series about our future celebration of the life of Eddie Aikau), coming soon
2. Late Night doing a NEW play next week by an undergrad in an experimental online platform: I'm Leaving You My Feet
3. Virtual Dance Performance I, a showcase of student choreography, coming in October
4. My contribution: working with a terrific team for Flowers of Hawai'i, a major

play by Hawai'i writer Lee Cataluna

5. ANOTHER original student play through Late Night: When We Were Young

6. ANOTHER original production of a student work: I'm Lot Lane (a solo effort) explores Hawai'i's 1895 uprising, in December

That's just the Fall semester, folks."

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Name: Annastasia Fiala-Watkins

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

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Phone Number (808) 6363365

Date 02-03-2000

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  
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Signature

Name: Haaheo Ahakuelo-Kepa

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 41-1628 Kumuniu Street  
State / Province: Waimanalo  
Country: United States

From: **Amy Redmond Waran** <info@flyingcolorsdance.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 11:16 AM

Subject: Regarding the UH Dance & Theatre Program

To: <david.lassner@hawaii.edu>

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

To whom it may concern,

I am an alumni of the UH Dance graduate degree program. I began my graduate studies in 2005 and graduated with an MFA in Dance - choreography and performance, in 2008. I'm writing in support of the dance and theatre department.

I don't feel that I need to go on ad nauseum about the obvious reasons you should not make cuts to the unique and diverse UH Dance and Theatre department. You know it's value and you KNOW how unique it is compared to other university programs. You know that education in the arts is more important now than ever before. Especially a program as rich in culture and diversity as the arts programs in Hawaii. Students CANNOT find an education as ethnically rich as Hawaii's on the mainland. Period. You know this.

What I want to know is why you are not making any cuts to your sports programs? And don't tell me it is because those programs bring in money from ticket sales. Last I checked, performing arts ALSO brings in money from ticket sales. This may not be relevant now with COVID in play. Will you be selling tickets for sports events right now? No. Eventually, things will go back to normal and people will be lining up to attend performing arts events again. But who will perform for a paying audience if there isn't a program to educate those future performers? A small dance department is not costly to maintain, but the UH Dance program puts on several shows a year that people from outside the university pay to see. By comparison, several of your sports programs are costly to maintain. Personally I am so tired of people in power undervaluing the arts when they consume art on a daily basis. Daily, more people consume some form of art than they do participating in, or observing sports. Not only that, the arts teaches us about diversity, culture and history. What is more important in an educational environment? The arts or sports? I think the answer is obvious.

On a more personal note, without the outstanding education I received from the UH Dance Department, I would not be the teacher and entrepreneur I am today. Before making assumptions about the ability of dance and theatre majors to be successful after obtaining a degree in the arts, you should take a much closer look at your alumni. Nearly everyone I graduated with are currently making a huge difference in their communities, and are extremely successful, productive individuals.

Stop undervaluing the arts. We need these programs more than ever.

--

Amy Redmond Waran

Owner/Artistic Director  
Flying Colors Dance & Fitness

Dear President Lassner and esteemed colleagues,

Covid-19 has forced the state into financial crisis, and UH needs to react accordingly. It is tempting to see the reduction/elimination of "small programs" as an easy way to save money or give the appearance of such.

However, as you know, popularity and growth potential are not the only measures of value. Many of these "small programs" have huge impacts in their fields and communities. I strongly urge you to reconsider stop-outs of degree programs in the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance, recognizing stop-outs as seriously damaging to entire fields of study at UH, with negative effects that ripple through communities both local and global.

As a close partner and strong supporter of the Dept. of Theatre and Dance, the East-West Center Arts Program has a long history of amplifying the work of the Department's faculty and students, through statewide community outreach, exhibitions, festivals, K-12 programs, public workshops, and a supportive network of professionals and enthusiasts throughout Hawai'i and the world. We see the Department as a gem in the University system, a unique world-class collection of knowledge, talent, and innovation within the faculty and the students they attract.

Student experiences within the Department are often not simply vocational but transformational. The Department produces students that think boldly, care deeply, and connect with community in meaningful and lasting ways. These students are also providing leadership in thought and action in the critically important areas of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.

The work of the Dept. of Theatre and Dance contributes to education, health, and the local economy. Eliminating entire academic tracks creates often unimagined and unintentional domino effects, reducing opportunities and damaging established relationships community-wide. These actions also erode public trust that the University is committed to the values and ideas of higher education and community building.

Similarly, I support the groundbreaking work and value of other "small programs" in jeopardy such as Ethnomusicology, Ethnic Studies, Art History, American Studies, Women's Studies, Indo-Pacific Language Studies, and programs within the College of Education to name a few.

I sympathize with the tremendous task of making tough decisions to respond to grave financial realities. This challenge is also an opportunity to think creatively and responsibly, to consider all options to reduce spending without eliminating degree programs, and to boldly reaffirm the values, principles, and vision of the University of Hawai'i. Erasing opportunities for study irrevocably damages the integrity and reputation of departments and the University as a whole. Temporary salary cuts can be removed once financial health is achieved; the decision to stop-out degree programs, whose reputations take years if not decades to establish, is not nearly as reversible and has a much greater human toll.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With aloha,  
Eric

-----

**Eric Chang** | Coordinator, Arts Program  
808.944.7584

**East-West Center**

1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601

<http://arts.EastWestCenter.org>

Facebook/Instagram: EWC.arts

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Phone Number	(808) 7457126
Date	09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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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:

Do not strip these kids of their careers and passions for dance/theatre due to uncontrollable factors driven by COVID-19. There must be alternative choices that can be made to preserve these programs and opportunities for its students. This is a time we need to work together and make the necessary sacrifices to ensure the well being of all people, communities, schools, programs etc. Big or small. Get off your high horse.

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: Nakea Hanohano

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: 45422 Meakaua st  
State / Province: Hi  
Country: United States

Name Ashley Manz

Email ashleynm808@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7813375

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Ashley Manz

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Draven Arnold

Email dlarnold@crimson.ua.edu

Phone Number (808) 3640988

Date 10-03-2001

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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Signature

Name: Draven Arnold

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Tuscaloosa  
State / Province: Alabama  
Country: United States

Name Alex Takemoto

Email alexct968@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2237347

Date 09-13-2002

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  
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Signature

Name: Alex Takemoto

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Honolulu  
State / Province: Hawai'i  
Country: United States

Name Alaina Kedro

Email alainakaylie@outlook.com

Phone Number (808) 3897815

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Alaina Kedro

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address  
City: Kaneohe  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Matt Fennelly

Email fennelly@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (201) 6949442

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Matt Fennelly

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Nicholas Harrington

Email nharringtonx@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 226-8597

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:

I am speaking as someone who is a...  
-Windward Community College graduate  
-Patron of UHM Theatre and Dance  
-Theatre Professional who has worked with UHM Theatre and Dance graduates

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Nicholas Harrington

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Brook Costello

Email brookcostello@gmail.com

Phone Number (650) 4650182

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

This program saved my life. No where else in the US can student experience the beautiful mix of Eastern and Western theater. To lose this program would be a disservice to your school, community, and the field of theater.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Brook Costello

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
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State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Karyl Garland

Email karyl8@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3495046

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

The following exist as our University of Hawai'i Mission Statement and Vision, both of which directly speak to the importance and history of these islands in that they honor expression through languages of all kinds including, especially in Hawaii, dance. "We cultivate creative and innovative leaders who mālama our people, our places, and our ways of knowing in order to sustain and transform our

Name Kimberley Newhouse

Email [knewhous@hawaii.edu](mailto:knewhous@hawaii.edu)

Phone Number (808) 3440921

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
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CC:  
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Name: Kimberley Newhouse

I am a UH Manoa: Faculty Member

Address  
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State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Michele Painter

Email michele1981plie@gmail.com

Phone Number (845) 7989778

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Please add your additional comments:

I would like to point out that the Dance program is like no other university Dance program in the United States. Although a small program, it offers a large variety of multi-cultural classes in dance forms, including Hula and traditional Japanese dance to name just a couple. This makes the program extremely unique, as these multi-cultural offerings just cannot be found in other dance programs around the country. It would be a huge loss to the performing arts community at large if this program were to be cut. Also, the state of Hawaii would no longer have ANY reputable dance programs available if these cuts take place. I am telling you this as a graduate of the M.F.A. Dance program at UHM and as a Dance professional currently living in New York State.

I trust that the leadership at UHM would be able to exercise integrity and common sense as they find a budget that works for the school and for the good of all.

Thank you.

Letter Body:

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Name: Michele Painter

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Ellenville  
State / Province: New York  
Country: United States

Name Amanda Morris

Email surferg007@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 9275527

Date 09-17-2020

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CC:  
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Please add your additional comments:

I am a graduate of the University of Hawai'i Manoa, and minored in dance. The variety of dance classes I had saved and made my life possible. I was able to try many different cultures of their forms of dance through the UH dance & theater program. It would not be a university without the arts especially dance. We live in our bodies and expression through dance was life.

Name ALIYA SLAYTON

Email aslay@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (508) 4945454

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
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CC:  
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Signature

Name: ALIYA SLAYTON

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Lance Sabado

Email dancelance22@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 3921221

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Dance is not only valuable to everyday life, but vital to the happiness of so many people. Please reconsider your measures.

Letter Body:

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Name: Lance Sabado

I am a UH Manoa: Staff Member

Address City: 44-557 Paleka Road  
State / Province: Kaneohe  
Country: United States

Name Alana Glaser

Email alanahulagirl@hawaii.rr.com

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

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Signature

Name: Alana Glaser

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Name Grace Grange

Email grace.grange@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2276685

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Signature

Name: Grace Grange

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: Honolulu  
State / Province: Hawaii

Name Ruby O'Malley

Email ruby.ja.omalley@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7998649

Date 09-17-2020

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

Name: Ruby O'Malley

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: 500 Lunalilo Home Rd Apt 24M  
State / Province: Honolulu  
Country: United States

Name Isabel Miranda

Email isabelm.miranda@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2344362

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

Dance studies provides an avenue for physical embodiment of healing the generational trauma of colonialism and diaspora, as well as a form of storytelling that is more familiar to indigenous bodies than the written word. Movement matters.

Letter Body:

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Name: Isabel Miranda

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Name Mina Zavary

Email minazav@gmail.com

Phone Number (425) 4993865

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Mina Zavary

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Bellevue  
State / Province: WA  
Country: United States

Name Stacey Pulmano

Email srpulman@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 2558684

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
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Signature

Name: Stacey Pulmano

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 1441 Victoria St #1102  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

ame Nathaniel Lee

Email nateslee@gmail.com

Date 04-01-2002

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  
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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:

Community Member

Name Jasmine Cerezo

Email jasminecerezo@hotmail.com

Phone Number (253) 3418931

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Dear President Lassner,

I am writing you to discuss my perspective as a current MFA in Dance candidate at UHM, and where my concerns lie with the proposed changes to the dance degrees at UHM.

I recently relocated my life from Los Angeles, CA to Oahu in order to pursue this dance degree at UHM under the impression that this is an extremely credible dance program, and I fear that once I graduate (if the degree is removed OR even if it merges into another degree program) my degree will no longer be considered something that is impressive or credible because the program was removed. For instance, a future prospective job interview could result in being assumed that I didn't attend a credible dance school because shortly after my graduation, the program was removed entirely. What message does that send to my future hiring professionals? It is damaging to my degree's integrity, and furthermore, contributes to the mindset that dance isn't a logical career path, which is often a battle we face as dancers and artists. I additionally worry about the opportunities that will be available to me as someone who is interested in working in higher ed as a dance professor/faculty, and considering the fact that these types of jobs are already difficult enough to come by, this will create more of a competition for these jobs because of the scarcity. I am also concerned that this will create a trend in other universities nationwide and could result in no longer having options for pursuing dance degrees- unless at the conservatory level, which creates a divide because it only will allow dancers with a certain skill set to be accepted into those programs, creating an elitist exclusivity in dance that we are trying to alleviate. This also hugely contributes to the erasure of the arts at the university level, which will then trickle down to the K-12 education level, and into society. I also am concerned what this will do to the dance community in Hawaii considering how much impact those dancers have from UH alumni, and also how this will effect the culture and diversity that is taught in the UH system that then feeds into other locations on the mainland. The practices we are embedding in dancers here is something that needs to be translated to other locations in the US and is unique to UH. I can see how hard the T&D departments are working to promote diversity and inclusion, and steer away from colonization and Eurocentric training, and I believe that cancelling these degree options will contribute to erasing all the hard work we have already done in reparation. Dance defines all ethnic differences and unites them, so I fear that removing these programs will contribute to an un-doing. I also hold a huge concern in this idea of merging degree programs because I feel that the focus we currently have on promoting a more diverse dance program will then shift the focus on how to navigate a merger in degrees...which then contributes again to erasure of the dance degree and also to erasing the efforts of removing Eurocentric ideas.

Please consider making budget cuts elsewhere, or in a different form. Additionally, please consider the fact that just because the dance program may be small in comparison to other programs at UH, it is equivalent to the size of most dance programs around the country. (UCI has about 15-20 students in their MFA program, UCLA about 6-8 for perspective). I urge you to consider comparing our program to other DANCE programs in the nation versus other disciplines for this reason. Additionally, please see the value the dance department at UH holds in comparison to other dance programs around the nation- we are focused on different values then anywhere else in the US in the realm of dance- especially in promoting inclusion, culture, and diversity at the indigenous level.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing this email as well as the testimonies from all other dance/theatre majors. I urge you to fully understand the scope of these proposals and to hold the arts on the same pedestal as all other disciplines of learning.

Sincerely,

*Carla Guajardo*

**University of Hawaii Manoa**

**M.F.A. Candidate of Dance**

B.F.A. in Dance Cornish College of the Arts

[carlag@hawaii.edu](mailto:carlag@hawaii.edu)

*Ph: (951) 837-7819*

Name Shannon Clusel

Email clusel@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (631) 3467834

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

As a graduate assistant in the religion department and a student fundraiser for the UH Foundation, I am deeply ashamed and shocked at the proposed cuts. I work tirelessly to contribute to the school, and not just my department, but to raise funds for all of UH. I cannot begin to express how devastating the loss of the religion department would be. Not

Name Willie Carter

Email willxishi808@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7541669

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name:	Willie Carter
I am a UH Manoa:	Supporter
Address	City: 92-1490 hoalii st State / Province: Hi Country: United States

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Allen Maniker** <ahmaniker@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 5:19 PM

Subject: Dance at University of Hawai'i

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>, <efisher@hawaii.edu>, <iezzi@hawaii.edu>, <wessendo@hawaii.edu>

Dear President Lassner,

I am a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City with a BFA in Dance. Betsy Fisher was a classmate. I was very grateful for the training I received at Juilliard and went on to have a very rewarding professional career in Dance.

When it was time to move on from Dance I returned to school to obtain my MD degree and specialized in Neurosurgery. I recently retired as Chairman of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in Manhattan and a Professor of Neurosurgery at the Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine.

While some may see only the disparate aspects of my careers in dance and medicine I see only parallels. The discipline, the attention to detail, the hours of long hard work, the achievement through repetition, and the patience to work toward a goal were all instilled in me by my dance training. These values served me well as I progressed in my medical career.

For this reason I urge you to reconsider abolishing the Department of Dance at your institution. Aside from training artists and the need for art more than ever, as I am sure many others will write to you about, I wish you to also consider the significant benefits that arise from studying an artform such as dance even if one does not pursue it professionally.

I currently serve on two dance related boards in New York city and one in particular deals with young dancers in training. Last year one father approached me and asked if his daughter does not make it professionally in dance will the training be "wasted". I told him nothing could be farther from the truth than that statement. Training in Dance is never wasted. From the aspects outlined above, the training can be most beneficial in any career choice.

Please reconsider, it would be a great loss to your institution to be without this ancient and noble art form, let alone the values it teaches and instills in students.

Thank you for your attention.

best regards,  
Allen Maniker, MD, FAANS

Chairman of Neurosurgery (retired)  
Mount Sinai Beth Israel  
New York, NY

Name Elyse Stevens

Email elysecabanas@hotmail.com

Phone Number (808) 9895067

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
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Please add your additional comments:

This program helped me attain my goal of earning my Masters of Fine Arts in Dance. The arts help us to connect with our communities, our cultural traditions and to history. The dance program allows for self expression in its simplest form, movement. That is something we do everyday. Please don't take this program away. It will undo how far that department, the professors and its students have come.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Elyse Stevens

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 340 Ainako Ave  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Caitlin Larkin

Email cnlarkin@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 3660715

Date 09-17-2020



Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Caitlin Larkin

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 47-441 hui Nēnē st  
State / Province: Hi  
Country: United States

Name Rain Wright

Email rwright7@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7826985

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Rain Wright

I am a UH Manoa: Faculty Member

Address City: 1019 B 9th Ave  
State / Province: Hi  
Country: United States

Name Serina Dunham

Email serinad@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 2258309

Date 09-17-2020



Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

UH Manoa's theatre and dance program has much valuable resources and gateway to Asian cultures and traditions in the practice of theatre and dance. Not only is the level known to be the best in the U.S., but also, while there is a rise in cultural/racial clash in the States in recent years, UH Manoa has a wonderful platform for students and the community to learn a deeper understanding of intercultural relationships with these programs. I believe that is cherishable, and should not be taken away.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Serina Dunham

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name S. Naomi Pak

Email novelapproach.blackdoggames@gmail.com

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: S. Naomi Pak

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 1914 University Ave #302  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name John Shade

Email jshade1953@aol.com

Phone Number (808) 2629132

Date 09-17-2020



Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name Haley Sakamoto

Email hs2819@nyu.edu

Phone Number ((808) 728-2883) (808) 728-2883

Date 09-17-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Haley Sakamoto

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: New York  
State / Province: NY  
Country: United States

Name Dillon Ginto

Email dginto@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 4280954

Date 06-27-1998

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Please add your additional comments:

Do not shut down the Theater and Dance programs as you are actively hindering student's desire to achieve a degree in. Why would we decide to cut an entire field of study away from students before trying to cut spending elsewhere. Why are you using our tuition money to pay for a solar powered parking roof.



Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Dillon Ginto

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 520 Lunalilo Hm Rd #218  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Kira Stone

Email kirastone44@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2328329

Date 09-17-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Kira Stone

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Robinson Denzer

Email rbnsnd@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 4781410

Date 09-17-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David 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 truly would have never been introduced to the community that saved my life if it was not through theatre and dance. But on a not so personal note, the arts are as important as ever right now. Art is part of every indigenous culture. Support the Hawaiian artists. Do more erase them.



Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Robinson Denzer

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: 68-671 Crozier dr.  
State / Province: Waialua, Hi  
Country: United States

Name jennifer williams

Email ahlgrenjl@gmail.com

Phone Number (512) 650-8779

Date 09-18-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I am an alumni from the University of Hawaii's Theatre and Dance program. I received both my BA in Dance and MFA in Dance from UHM. I was mentored by some of the most talented in the field while attending UHM in a department that challenged me beyond comprehension. Attending UHM's Theatre and Dance program changed my life, and because I was able to obtain an MFA in Dance, I am now able to become a certified Dance Movement Therapist. With my DMT certification and my MFA degree, I have also been accepted into Texas State's Master of Social Work program. From here I will be able to help others grow and heal and find their place in this world; this would not have been possible had it not been for my achievements at UHM.

Many have preconceived notions about the arts and the opportunities that develop out of the field. The art programs are always the first on the list to get cut in organizations, and it's a travesty. This isn't a world that thrives on numbers and science; it's a world that stems from creativity and expression and beyond. If you take away the arts, you are taking away the core of what is the foundation of humanity.

Letter Body:

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

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Signature

Name: jennifer williams

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 9417 Great Hills Trail Apt 1050  
State / Province: Texas  
Country: United States

Name Cynthia Gendrich

Email gendricm@wfu.edu

Phone Number (3367583940)

Date 09-18-2020



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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Please add your additional comments:

When we return to normal life, what do you think will make your school different from its online self? What subjects not only require in-person learning but give back that learning to their college community? The arts. And the performing arts are community builders, places to celebrate our humanity, to laugh and cry and be compelled to empathize with characters different from ourselves—in a room together (something we all miss.) In cutting your theatre program you're sending a clear message that these functions don't matter. Instead of counting audiences, backstage and front of house student workers, actors, dancers, and stage management students as part of the FTEs of your theatre faculty, you're probably looking at the intimacy of the classes and fretting about the economics of that—though it is a fraction of the impact that faculty has.

Of course you will probably ignore all the emails you're getting, but I'll still share my own personal take: I had a student who had a great experience as a grad student at your institution. I'd have sent you more bright young theatre artists. Now you'll have the enmity of every theatre person in the country for scapegoating people more dramatically affected by this pandemic than almost anyone else. It's the action of a short-sighted and small-hearted administration to not recognize who is going to be needed in the post-Covid world, and to kick hard-working people when they are down.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Cynthia Gendrich

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Winston Salem  
State / Province: North Carolina  
Country: United States

Name Victoria Hargett

Email victoria.hargett@gmail.com

Phone Number (704) 3405906

Date 07-10-1998

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  
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Signature

Name: Victoria Hargett

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 9721 running cedar lane  
State / Province: NC  
Country: United States

Name Rebecca McGarvey

Email beckymcgarvey@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3521317

Date 06-13-1988

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Please add your additional comments:

These cuts invalidate the degrees of all your alumni in these departments. You have a responsibility to us, considering how much you are always asking us for money. You are jeopardizing and limiting our opportunities by having a degree that no longer is offered. The unsaid assumption is that it wasn't a very good program. You do not have the luxury of choosing who gets to decide what to study you are a public institution. If someone wants to Theatre or dance it is your obligation to provide that for them. The whole country pays taxes specifically for you to provide educational programs, regardless of whether or not they affect your wallet.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Rebecca McGarvey

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Michelle Slavik

Email mslavik96@gmail.com

Phone Number (484) 6394290

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Michelle Slavik

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Philadelphia  
State / Province: PA  
Country: United States

Name Charles Moreland

Email morelandc@hotmail.com

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Charles Moreland

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Name Shannon Dooling-Cain

Email shannondoolingdances@gmail.com

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Shannon Dooling-Cain

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter



Name Kara Monaghan

Email kara.monaghan@outlook.com

Phone Number (949) 7351560

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name Travers King

Email traversking@gmail.com

Phone Number (978) 6181724

Date 12-22-1986

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  
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Signature

Name: Travers King

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Hudson  
State / Province: Massachusetts  
Country: United States

Dear President Lassner,

I am a graduate of dance from The Juilliard School in NYC who went on to have a long performing career in the field. Currently I work as a college advisor specifically for dancers, working with students from all over as well as teaching Yoga.

The news of plans to end the dance department at the University of Hawaii is disheartening. The dancers that I work with are the most motivated young people I have come across - those attracted to the field of dance tend to be ambitious, hardworking and curious. Whether or not any student ends up in the field they studied in college has no bearing on the value of study and commitment as well as transferrable skills.

Dancers often have long performing careers or move into related fields. Many go on to study and work in every kind of work imaginable. The foundation that studying dance gives them is invaluable on so many levels. The ability to collaborate and work closely with others, the attention to detail, the ability to work hard (and intelligently) as well as the academic understanding of the workings of the body, are invaluable. Their deep commitment to the art form is evident and for those of us who have remained in the arts for most of our lives, the alternative is unthinkable. Many of my peers continue to choreograph, perform, and have had deep and lasting impact on our world and on younger dancers. The field fosters the idea of mentoring and guiding the next generation to find their path. The deep listening and cooperation needed to become a dancer is even more invaluable at this moment in history.

Parents will often come up to me to discuss their worries or joy in the choice of their child to follow their passion for dance. Some are behind them 100% and see the value of dance in the world. Others are fearful that there will not be jobs and money and want a more "practical" choice. These are personal choices but I can tell you that not one person with dance in their history that I have met has ever regretted their time in the field of dance. No matter where they ended up, they would take the path of studying dance again.

I don't know Betsy Fisher except by reputation. The unique qualities of the dance department at U of Hawaii are also known in the field and it would be a huge disservice to the university for this department to end. We need art more than ever before as well as all the lessons that it teaches us. I urge you to reconsider.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barrie Raffel

Aloha e nui dance dept colleagues,

As a veteran journalist and lifelong student of dance, I join you in deploring UH's announcement about possible cuts to the school's venerated dance program. This is a travesty. Dance has lifesaving implications related to future pandemics. This is not bombast and it's not even my idea; it comes from the CDC. Allow me to explain: Back in 2006--on my first day on the job as the State DOH pandemic communication specialist, I participated in a govt interagency training conference where the keynote presenter from the CDC threw down this challenge: go back to your jurisdictions and dig up personal stories from anyone still around with a living memory of the Great Influenza of 1918 or its aftermath. Find out how they cared for one another, because in a pandemic that's it! For lack of human immunity, our behavior is all we got to contain the infection. Apparently, newspapers of the time were full of political bruhahaha and a lot of pandemic denial by corrupt politicians trying to save face in places where the killer flu was the worst. The CDC keynoter- Barbara Reynolds-- specifically tasked us to look for any record of the 1918 killer flu in local arts--such as theatre or local literature or folk arts, because she said that is where people really let the emotional reality rip about how they survived with no pharma, no tech, just everyday actions. I was sitting there surprised as all hell because I figured this training session would be some boring data download. No, said the trainer. Her point was that public health is not only about numbers and metrics. It's about understanding what real people do for themselves and one another when the shit hits the fan. Understanding this will help us prep for the next pandemic, she said. This was the takeaway and it applies today as much as it did in 1918, even though our online platforms are an info tsunami of partisan blahblah and even though the metrics really do matter, the stories we spill from guts straight into arts-- these stories help save lives today and are also the legacy we owe to the next generations when pandemics pop up for them-as Mother Nature will make it happen whether we are ready or not.

With this email, I would also like to bring to your attention an initiative to protect the arts from panic funding cuts in the time of Covid. The following effort is being mounted by scholars at the Annenberg School for Public Health Communications in Philadelphia. Here is a link to the announcement for a Webinar which took place on Wednesday. I am awaiting the transcript and will email it to you when it becomes available.

<https://www.ascmediarisk.org/events/upcoming-events/art-activism-virtual-roundtable/>

In the meantime, I am looking to ally and advocate around the theme

**# Zero tolerance for cutting arts in covid**

Am also pitching stories to local news outlets to cover local artists who exemplify resilience of arts in the time of covid. LMK if any subjects come to mind.

Onward and best of health to you and your families,

Liza Simon

864-0527

Name Becky Helfert Wedll

Email becky.helfert@gmail.com

Phone Number (406) 459-2637

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name William Daubner

Email billdaubner@yahoo.com

Phone Number (201) 9485150

Date 09-18-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:	Community Member
Address	City: 1042a 7th State / Province: Hawaii
Name	Jennifer Murata
Email	jenjen_hawaii@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(808) 2304769
Date	09-18-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Please add your additional comments:

Please keep the arts alive for our community and our keiki.

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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Name: Jennifer Murata

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

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Phone Number (808) 3710110

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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Signature

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Phone Number (808) 3710110

Date 09-18-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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Signature

Name: Michelle Fran

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

Name Caroline Clark

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Phone Number (512) 5751997

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

I protest these proposed closures in the strongest possible terms. The Department of Theater and Dance at the University of Hawaii Manoa provides an education that exists nowhere else in the world. Its multicultural, educational offerings lead the way in producing artist-scholars with the kinds of skills in demand in the 21st-century. I can attest with my own experience. I chose to attend UH Manoa for my MFA in Dance because it was the only place where I could learn new skills and knowledge that I had not already acquired during my undergraduate degree and subsequent professional experience. Those studies in Asian and Pacific dance forms have been invaluable to me as a professor who teaches dance history, culture, and theory. Because of my excellent education at UH, I have transitioned into an artist and scholar at the forefront of dance studies discourse combining theory and practice. My current research centers in a post-doc fellowship that I received in New Zealand, and my familiarity with Polynesian dance forms was fundamental to receiving this opportunity. At a time when Dance Studies are changing fundamentally to be more inclusive of multiple cultures, my experiences at the University of Hawaii have allowed me to provide leadership in proposing how to decolonize curriculum.

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: Caroline Clark

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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Country: United States

Name Ghorban Miarkiani

Email ghorban@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (805) 6987655

Date 11-09-1987

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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I am a University of Hawaii grad student at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. As grad students in CTAHR, our research can have many moral, cultural, and economic impacts on our community. This impact can have even greater consequences on a place like Hawaii.

Art programs, especially dance and theater, help other students on campus care deeply about the effect their research has on the rest of the island. It is evident that in our current environmental and political climate it is even more important to be supported by a diversity of perspectives and fields of study. The arts are a vital part of cultural expression and quality of life. Dance and theater students in particular present a unique point of view that is essential for a well rounded and culturally sensitive school. It would be a great loss to the University and the rest of the Island to lose this department.

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Signature

Name: Ghorban Miarkiani

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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Date 01-24-2005

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Dear David Lassner,

We write to you as alumni of the Dance program at UH Manoa to ask that you reconsider your decision to discontinue the BA, BFA, MA, and MFA in Dance at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. We are now successful professionals in the field of dance thanks in part to the education we received at UHM. There, many of us who came from elsewhere (the mainland US and from other countries such as Colombia, Brazil, and Japan) were introduced to the dance cultures of the Pacific through Hula and Tahitian dance courses in the music department, supported by a department of Theater and Dance where Asian performance practices were a strong part of the curriculum.

It is true that an overhaul of the Dance program was long overdue: the curriculum was and is very Eurocentric, and the faculty, mostly dance professionals from the mainland, did not reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the student population for at least the past two decades.

However, the Dance faculty was just beginning to become more diverse in recent years with new tenure-track hires of faculty of color, and Dance was on track to begin offering a curriculum more in touch with the indigenous lands where UH was built and with kanaka maoli and local culture and values. Therefore, we ask that you support an overhaul of the Dance Department-- by maintaining undergraduate and graduate degrees, continued funding for adjuncts and

assuring future faculty lines--rather than its elimination. They were just beginning to move in the right direction and they have the potential of being a reference in Asian and Pacific performance practices. Universities need to continue to support and value the performing arts, even in times of austerity.

Sincerely,

\*Ana Paula Höfling, MFA in Dance '03, PhD

[aphofling@uncg.edu](mailto:aphofling@uncg.edu)

Author of *Staging Brazil: Choreographies of Capoeira* (Wesleyan University Press, 2019)

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

\*Colleen Murphy, MA in Dance Education '03

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Associate Teaching Professor of Dance, Bowling Green State University

Owner, The Beat Dance Company

\*Melissa Teodoro, MFA in Dance '03

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Associate Professor of Dance, Slippery Rock University

Artistic Director of Palenque: Colombian Dance Ensemble

\*Michael Pili Pang, MFA in Dance '05

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Kumu Hula and Director

Halau Hula Ka No'eau

Mu'olaulani

\*Yukie Shiroma, MFA in Dance '87

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Artistic Director, Monkey Waterfall

Organizing Committee, Asia Pacific Dance Festival

Founder, Mid-Pacific Institute Dance Program

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\*Izumi Sato, MA in Dance '05

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Former Dance Lecturer of Indian Classical Dance, UHM

Former Dance Lecturer, Mid-Pacific Institute

Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher, E-RYT 200, Yoga Alliance.

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Director of Moving Joyfully

[www.movingjoyfully.com](http://www.movingjoyfully.com)

\*Mercedes Ross, BA in Dance '12

[moderncollective@icloud.com](mailto:moderncollective@icloud.com)

Director of Modern Collective Dance Company

Educator, Motion Pacific Dance

\*Noelani Goldstein, BA in Dance '03

[Hulagal@gmail.com](mailto:Hulagal@gmail.com)

Performer of Dances from Polynesia

Educator, Mid Pacific Institute

\*Kathy Carranza, MFA in Dance '01

[mybubbashbm@gmail.com](mailto:mybubbashbm@gmail.com)

Performer of traditional Okinawan Dance.

\*Esther Izuo, MFA in Dance '99

[popokidance@gmail.com](mailto:popokidance@gmail.com)

Performer of Western and Hawaiian Dance

Independent Dance Educator

\*All signatories have been copied on this message. This electronic communication constitutes their electronic signature.

Ana Paula Höfling, PhD  
doctor; she/her/hers  
Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, School of Dance  
Lloyd International Honors College Faculty Fellow  
Cross-appointed faculty, Women's and Gender Studies Program  
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Name Leah Domingo

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Phone Number (808) 8591773

Date 08-28-1990



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  
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:

UH Manoa has a unique "eastern theatre" focus and produces shows annually that you'll never see or get a chance to be involved in at any other university in the entire country. The arts have always been defunded the moment a budget gets cut, but it's a form of expression and an outlet for creative intelligence necessary for some people to thrive. It's been around for centuries!!

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: Leah Domingo

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 11417 SW Davies Rd Apt 1303  
State / Province: Beaverton, Oregon  
Country: United States

Name Greta Pearse

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Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Signature

I am a UH Manoa:	Student
Name	Kihe de Silva
Email	desilvak009@gmail.com
Phone Number	(808) 261-0689
Date	09-18-2020

Letter Heading

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

Degree programs in Dance and Theater are of immeasurable value to our community and especially our lahui Hawaii. The Baker's production of "'Au'a'ia" as well as Kau'i Kaina's "Hi'iaka" stand in proud testimony to the value and relevance of both degree tracks; neither should be cut by a university dedicated to serving as "ka lamakū o ke aloha 'āina."

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kihei de Silva

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Ali Duffy

Email aliduffy22@yahoo.com

Letter Heading  
To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Ali Duffy

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address Country: United States

Name Kassie O'Dell-Lambeth

Email kassieo@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7858157

Date 04-26-2002

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  
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Name Zoi Nakamura

Email k.zoi.nakamura@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7565229

Date 02-28-1999

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name: Zoi Nakamura

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Hilo  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Kaitlyn O'Dell-Lambeth

Email kaitlyno@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 7859417

Date 04-26-2002

Letter Heading

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Name Lisa Orig

Email info@upsidedownpilates.com

Phone Number (888) 5611651

Date 09-18-2020

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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:

Dance is the heart of what Hawaii is. Taking this program away from the university would be like cutting Hawaii off at its heart. Please watch my daily TV show Upside-Down Pilates on Spectrum. Visit my website [www.upsidedownpilates.com](http://www.upsidedownpilates.com) I am a product of the department you are about to destroy. I hold an MFA in Dance from UH Manoa.

Letter Body:

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

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Name: Lisa Orig

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Lisa Niemczura

Email mishani@cox.net

Phone Number (702) 4011293

Date 09-18-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I am a UHM theatre alumnus of 2000. I treasure my education especially the eastern multicultural bent. It is my hope that this program will find a way to continue in these challenging times.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Lisa Niemczura

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: 1313 Driscoll Dr. #201  
State / Province: Las Vegas, NV 89128  
Country: United States

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

September 19, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the University of Hawaii, Manoa's four degree programs in the Dance Program, and the MA and PhD in the Theatre program are currently at risk. I have known professors from both programs well. The Dance Program has a national reputation as one of the premiere institutions for dance training in the country. It is difficult for me to get my head around a decision like this. Our Provost, Mark Richards, says of the arts, "The arts are not a privilege for only a few. They should be a part of the fabric of every student's college experience." His current mission has sparked dozens of courses in the arts, and collaborative courses in arts and other fields on campus and is helping to demonstrate to skeptics the necessity of the arts. The arts are integral to society and culture as prophetic, reflective and historical artifacts.

If the Dance Program degrees are cut, there is one less place in the nation for students to obtain first class dance degrees. What is most disturbing, however, is that students who want to pursue dance as a career and are from the Islands, will have nowhere else to obtain a degree in dance! I reviewed the Department of Theater and Dance's Action Plan. They are taking deliberate actions to dismantle the Western, Eurocentric hierarchies that are prevalent in so many dance departments across the country. The arts are moving faster than other fields right now to make these changes. The dismantling of systemic racism that exists in fields like business, engineering and the sciences is moving slowly, for the most part. But dance and theater are way out ahead. Allow the Programs to continue and they will serve as models for other departments across campus. I am currently consulting weekly with departments on campus about our DEA&I initiatives. We are moving swiftly, and have prioritized this over all else. The Department of Theater and Dance at UH is doing this as well. Let them continue this work.

It is easy to cut Art programs when times get tough. Colleges and universities all over the world are currently facing difficult decisions. I urge you to reconsider your decision to cut these degrees. I urge you to look at the long term impact of not having these degrees and how it will impact the life and culture across campus and in the community. You may not realize you have impeccable, well respected, phenomenal professors teaching in the Dance and Theater programs. To take away these degrees, also takes away their jobs and abilities to have lifelong impacts on students. I have danced with many alums of that program, and with Betsy Fisher, many years ago in New York City. I have taken classes with the faculty on occasion at conferences and festivals and I am here to tell you that they are of the highest caliber.

If I can be of any help or if you would like to speak further, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am fortunate to work at a university where the arts are respected and a priority. I hope you will consider their value and support the continuation of the degrees in both programs. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Salk  
Chair (2013 – 2020)  
Associate Professor  
Mellon Foundation Fellow  
Donald E. Petersen Endowed Professor

Meany Hall 4000 15th Avenue NE Box 351150 Seattle, WA 98195  
phone 206.543.0500 mobile 206.755.7118 (best) fax 205.543.8610

Name Mikaela Glass

Email kaelabradly@comcast.net

Phone Number (707) 8891599

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David 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 UH Theatre and Dance department changed my life. The faculty and students are still close friends of mine today, and I truly believe I wouldn't have found my confidence and life direction without this program. Because it is a smaller program, it gives students the connections and opportunities to take on their studies. I grew in ways I never could have on a larger program. Please hear our voices as we fight for this department. It is so important to share the culture of Hawaii and UH needs to keep supporting Hawaiian culture through theatre and dance

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Mikaela Glass

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Oakland  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Michael Chang

Email mchang94@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 4529643

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Name: Michael Chang

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 1624 Kanunu St.  
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Country: United States

Name Lauren Block

Email blockln7@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (720) 3607084

Date 09-18-2020

Letter Heading

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CC:  
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Name: Lauren Block

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address  
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State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Rowen de Vera

Email rowendevera2008@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 8001617

Date 09-19-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

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Please add your additional comments:

I have been a dancer for as long as I can remember. Dancing helps to improve my mental and physical capabilities which in turn helps to improve my performance in other school subjects to the best of my maximum potential. Dancing is physical education a class that we're all slowly letting go in schools around the world. It is a known fact that in doing so, you are minimizing one's maximum performance. I kindly ask that you keep classes like dance and theater open. As hard as it is to see, dance and art really does make the world become a better place to live in.

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Signature

Name: Rowen de Vera

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: 1770 Hoolehua st  
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Country: United States

Name Clayton Takemoto, Jr.

Email tclayton316@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 6281302

Date 09-19-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Please add your additional comments:

Aloha Mr. Lassner and co.,

I would like to state to reconsider keeping dancing and the arts on the program as it is a huge part on not just physical but mental health. I have never taken a dance class when I was at LCC or UH West Oahu but gotten into country dancing for a year half I can honestly say that dancing whether country, hip hop, etc. is extremely important.

Dancing was where I met and created a lot of great relationships with some of the best, loving and caring individuals I know. Dancing, I believe also helps to grow ones confidence in themself. And I believe not just as a student but as an individual that is critical because it helps one out with their mental health and well-being. Plus it's a great way to be physical and of great shape.

Dancing and the arts should not be overlooked as it is just important as the other classes as it opens up creativity and one to show their uniqueness as an individual and also their culture. Dancing is who each of us express ourselves. It also helps to keep us happy because with music accompanied with dancing, it just is a magical moment that should not be without notice or disregard.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comments and I hope along with the other voices that will be heard and read that you'll reconsider. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely, Clayton



Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Clayton Takemoto, Jr.

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 99-445 Halawa Heights Road  
State / Province: Aiea, HI. 96701  
Country: United States

Name Candace Bottella

Email savoyphoto@aol.com

Phone Number (951) 2552975

Date 09-18-2020

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

Name: Candace Bottella

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Kapolei  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Jacob Martin

Email darckazuee@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3437703

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David 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 graduated from UH West. The arts drive creativity in the other disciplines. Keep these programs alive.



Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Jacob Martin

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 1585 ala hahanui st  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Allan Simeon Jr

Email asimeon@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 8952071

Date 11-08-2000

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Allan Simeon Jr

Address  
City: Keaau  
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Country: United States

Name Jonathan-Christopher Roberson

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Phone Number (808) 3726008

Date 09-19-2020

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  
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Name Robert Tsuhako

Email robert.tsuhako@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3875047

Date 09-19-2020

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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Robert Tshako

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Marisa Igarashi

Email mi353@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (8087814801)

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Marisa Igarashi

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Kate Berry

Email kbonstage@gmail.com

Phone Number (773) 3686992

Date 09-19-2020



Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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-The implementation of UH faculty, student, and community counter proposals to preserve Theatre and Dance degree programs within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters.

Please add your additional comments:

Theatre is integral in teaching empathy, confidence as well as research, and everything necessary that supports a liberal arts education. Please do not cut it!

Letter Body:

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

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

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Signature

Name: Kate Berry

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Creede  
State / Province: CO  
Country: United States

Name Nicole Miner

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Phone Number (808) 3893716

Date 09-19-2020

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  
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Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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I stand firm in my belief that the only reason there is hope in the world is because the ARTS exist to inspire us all. Especially now, in these trying times, the generations coming up into higher education need these programs more than ever. As much as the world needs improvements in science, business, economics, etc., it needs art to pull us through hardships. Take away dance, theatre, music...we don't really have anything to live for.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Nicole Miner

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Aiea  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States



Name Julia McCorvey

Email j.mmccorvey@gmail.com

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Name Jessi Cadorna

Email jessit@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 4258052

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  
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Signature

Name: Jessi Cadorna

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Glendale  
State / Province: AZ  
Country: United States

Name Rochele Burgo

Email rochele.burgo@yahoo.com

Phone Number (808) 7540803

Date 01-18-1992

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  
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Signature

Name: Rochele Burgo

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: 46-229 kahuhipa st. Apt.# A-204  
State / Province: HI/kaneohe  
Country: United States

Name Rochele Burgo

Email rochele.burgo@yahoo.comc

Phone Number (808) 7540803

Date 01-18-1992

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Name: Rochele Burgo

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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State / Province: HI/kaneohe  
Country: United States

Name Dyana Winkler

Email dyanawinkler@gmail.com

Phone Number (917) 783-7870

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Dyana Winkler

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
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State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Kaleo Norman

Email kaleo14@msn.com

Phone Number (808) 4266519

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Cutting out programs, especially Arts/Music/Dance, is unacceptable. This is going back to primary and secondary schools cutting out Art and Music. These programs are significant and are also a part of our world cultures, including Hawai'i. If the University needs to make budget cuts, then they need to do a much better job at managing the finance. Continuously increasing tuition and cutting out education? This is HĒWA!!!

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Kaleo Norman

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Ewa Beach  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Devin Williams

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

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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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On Sat, Sep 19, 2020 at 7:41 AM yasi [tokunagadanceko.org](mailto:yasi@tokunagadanceko.org) <yasi@tokunagadanceko.org> wrote:  
September 19, 2010

Dear President Lassner,

As former Director of Dance at The Boston Conservatory for 21 years, I am writing to express my concern that the University of Hawaii is considering dropping the BFA, BA, MFA and MA degree programs in dance. Having witnessed many dancers go through our professional BFA and MFA curriculums at The Boston Conservatory, I am even more convinced of the importance of dance today. NYU recognized dance as a language when the great anthropologist and doyenne of African dance, Pearl Primus received her doctorate. They recognized that dance has the unique capability of communication, discipline, vision, and inspiration.

As Martha Graham states:

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body.”  
“The body says what words cannot.”

Every professional dancer must have two careers because there will be a time when one should retire gracefully from the stage. The education they receive in dance will set them up to be significant contributors in society. Our alumni have become teachers, choreographers, videographers, producers, physicians, lawyers and even a police chief. They are true global citizens working in many capacities in many countries.

I urge you to please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Yasuko Tokunaga  
Former Director of Dance  
The Boston Conservatory  
Boston, MA

yasi@tokunagadanceko.org  
Yasi Cell: 617-970-6592

David Lassner, President of the University of Hawaii

I was disturbed to read in the newspapers of possible cuts to many programs at the University of Hawaii, due to reduced revenue. The arts are of special interest to me. I had the enriching experience of attending a performance of The Last King of Bali at the UH Kennedy Theatre last year. If the Asian Arts Program was not part of the Dance curriculum, I would not have been able to experience this beautiful art form. UH is uniquely situated to offer both undergraduate and PHD programs in Asian Theater. PHD programs train teachers, who can pass on this art form to others. I urge that the Asian Arts programs be supported to provide cultural diversity, and bring grants, international students and prestige to our university and community.

Thank you.

Jean McIntosh

250 Kawaihae St.  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Jean-McIntosh@hawaii.rr.com

Name	Valerie Mariano
Email	valmari09@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(808) 2851927
Date	09-19-2020

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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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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Name: Valerie Mariano

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Hope Kroog

Email hope.kroog@gmail.com

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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Signature

Name: Hope Kroog

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

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

Name Elsie Anderson

Email elsander@hawaii.rr.com

Phone Number (808) 2826728

Date 08-06-1959

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

I got a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art in 1982 and continued to take Ballet, jazz and Hula as an unclassified graduate. Although I never pursued a Master's degree in dance line I hoped I know that my Art/dance/creative background helped me Advance in my career in as a civilian in the US Army, information technology and cyber security. I just retired after 33 years of service and continue to work part time as a consultant. My problem solving skills and ability to think out of the box gave me an edge to navigate all the policy restrictions, and maximize functionality without compromising security. Those skills were honed in Art and Dance. To this day, I believe dance continues to compliment critical thinking skills. Where else do you have to learn a pattern on sight, reverse it on the left side, and reverse directions?



Letter Body:

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Name: Elsie Anderson

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Avis Kaneshiro

Email golffitnesshi@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2551200

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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I am a Physical Therapist who graduated with a masters degree from Columbia University after receiving a BA in Dance at the University of Hawaii. I learned about Physical Therapy through dance and I am forever grateful for the program at UH. My diverse background, I believe, is what set me apart from other applicants at Columbia. Please reconsider your plans to eliminate the Dance program. The Arts are a necessary part of all levels of education.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Avis Kaneshiro

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Katherine Robayo

Email katierobayo@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 854-4808

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Signature

Name: Katherine Robayo

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Elizabeth Assalone

Email lizziemario@yahoo.com

Phone Number (917) 968-2934

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading

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Please add your additional comments:

As a native New Yorker, I know how vital theater and dance programs are to supporting a creative economy. I hope that our large extended family on Oahu will continue to benefit from access to a thriving \*local\* artistic community.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Elizabeth Assalone

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: 2711 Henry Hudson Parkway #6B  
State / Province: New York  
Country: United States

Name Taylor Twadelle

Email twadelle@hawaii.edu

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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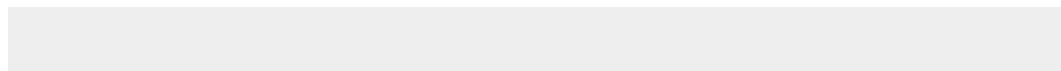
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Name	Marissa Abadir
Email	marissa@kalaroots.com
Phone Number	(808) 3430240
Date	09-20-2020

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  
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.

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: Marissa Abadir

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

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

Dear President Lassner,

I read with sadness that UH was considering cutting what I consider the top inclusive Asia-focused theatre and dance program in the world. There is no other campus that offers the breadth and depth that UH offers in this area. Most universities in the US are doing well if they even offer one or two classes per year on Asian Theatre in general, much less both academic and practice-based classes on multiple specific types of theatre! The same goes for dance. Wouldn't it be a shame to go from a world leader to just another university making some vague gesture at being part of the world, but instead, as elsewhere, giving primacy to the same Shakespeare and Ballet classes? I urge you to hold to what makes UH special, and celebrate the arts of people from around the world, which would seem a good focus to have in an era of increased sensitivity to issues of race and representation.

Wishing you well with the difficult balancing act which is your job, and also pleading that you hold onto this beautiful program in all its glory.

CedarBough Saeji  
Indiana University

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CedarBough T. Saeji ∞ 서이지 • 瑞利智

[Profile on Academia.edu](#)

Visiting Assistant Professor in East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University-Bloomington

Skype: c.saeji

Twitter: @TheKpopProf

"The cultural analyses of Korean digital media needs to avoid the temptation to seek and imagine a homogeneous Korean culture" (Yoon Kyong 2018: 294).

Interview in the 서울신문 8/13/2020 | [LINK](#)

"Whose Culture is it? K-pop's Image in the Age of Culture Wars" *Ryder Magazine* (IU), July 2020  
[LINK](#)

K-pop related Op-Ed published in the *Washington Post* June 24th, 2020: [LINK](#)

My thoughts on the Burning Sun scandal published April 12th, 2019: [LINK](#) and May 1st, 2019:  
[LINK](#)

Co-authored article with my former students/TAs on Jonghyun's suicide from July 2018: [LINK](#)

Name BETH ELLIOTT

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

Phone Number (703) 3216957

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

The University of Hawai'i Dance program is truly unique, and as the only dance program in the state, its elimination will profoundly negatively impact the arts community in Hawai'i. The loss of the only college dance degree program immersed in Hawaiian tradition and culture will be a loss to the entire field of dance and will certainly degrade the art form as a whole.

As I understand it, the elimination of the departments of Theatre and Dance will not even save the university any significant amount of money. The arts should not be disposable, and as an educational institution, UH holds a great responsibility to uphold the value of the arts in our lives. Given the rich tradition of dance, music and theatrical performance as such an integral part of the ancestry and culture of Hawai'i it is shocking that dance education would be on any short list of programs to be eliminated at UH in any climate. The idea of a University of Hawai'i without a dance degree should frankly be unthinkable.

Young people who reside and study dance for their entire lives in Hawai'i should not have to travel to the mainland to receive a completely different type of education than they would at UHM, where Hawaiian and other Asian Pacific traditions and culture are alive, present, respected, honored, included and masterfully taught. Mainland dance programs and conservatories are primarily focused on Western forms with little or no inclusion or understanding of Asian-Pacific traditions. Not only are these forms not often taught, they are often not even considered real or worthy dance techniques. The loss of this dance program degrades Hawaiian culture within the field of dance in the whole world outside of Hawai'i.

I fear that the incredibly impactful experience that I had, a dancer, an outsider educated in Hawai'i, could become unavailable. The program is a singular experience simply due to the geography and surrounding culture. There is no replacement for an MFA in dance from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, it provides an important and often overlooked perspective that is literally not available anywhere else on the planet.

I would not be who I am today had I not studied at UHM from 2005-2008 earning my MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography. My experiences inside and outside of the classroom could never have been duplicated elsewhere in the world, and they impacted the trajectory of my life and career profoundly.

The dance MFA was rigorous beyond what I could ever have imagined, and I was taught, mentored, supported, guided, and advised by the most generous artists in the field. All of my professors - all of them - continue to support and advise me to this day. I was so well prepared for the many things I went on to accomplish, as were my classmates, many of whom I have continued to work and collaborate since we studied together.

I run a national choreography festival now, and through that I have worked alongside countless choreographers, dance company directors, dancers, artists, and technicians from all over the US. I have therefore had the opportunity to observe the graduates of many other dance institutions, and to experience them as working artists. Many of them are simply not the well-prepared, competent, well-rounded professionals that I observe my fellow UHM Dance graduates to be. I received a superior education at UHM, I emerged with my MFA an accomplished artist, and I have continued to build on that foundation ever since.

It hurts me greatly to think that the Dance Program at UHM could disappear and that the opportunities and education that I received will no longer be available. That would truly be a tragic loss.

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: Beth Elliott

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Newburgh  
State / Province: New York  
Country: United States

Name Julia Dean-Kramer

Email Unrulyjulie1@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2037459

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading

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Signature

Name: Julia Dean-Kramer

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name ed christenson

Email edchrwmi@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 7703304

Date 09-20-2020

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Name Dulcinea Sabin

Email dmsabin@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (916) 7981922

Date 09-20-2020

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CC:  
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Please add your additional comments:

This is a disservice to Kama'āina, especially in an area for Hawaiian learning. This would be forcing local students to outsource, only losing money for the state and university. Also, a dance student will never be able to obtain the same education about hula (and other Pacific Island dance forms) anywhere else. This is a disservice to our community, our education, our university's prestige, and our 'āina.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Dulcinea Sabin

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Quintin Thomas

Email quintin\_thomas@hotmail.com

Phone Number (916) 5498287

Date 07-18-2000

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Signature

Name: Quintin Thomas

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Elk Grove  
State / Province: California  
Country: United States

Dear President Lassner and Provost Bruno,

I have had a many decades-long, and lucrative career as a professional dancer turned dance educator. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Modern Dance at the University of Missouri/Kansas City, and at 61 years old, I continue to perform dance professionally.

When I read that you have proposed to stop all four-degree programs from your Dance Program: BA, BFA, MA, and MFA, I felt compelled to speak from my dancer's perspective and wisdom. Your decision to shut down the degree programs in dance will obviously not serve your current dancers. Nor will it help the future of their dance careers. It will be devastating to dance educators and families you have employed. Most importantly, your decision will not improve your school's reputation.

I am on the dance faculty at the University of Missouri/Kansas City, where our Provost has had to make tough choices about what can stay and what should go during this challenging financial time. There have been pay cuts across the board for everyone and in every department. Some staff have been fired or furloughed, and many programs are combed over within an inch of their lives.

Our dance department is one department that was evaluated and assessed for its usefulness and contribution during these COVID times. The pros outweighed the cons. Dance is an essential and integral asset to the development of the students and the institution.

My successes and your dance faculty's accomplishments in education and life have derived from our dance history. According to Judith Hanna, Ph.D., "Dance is now being studied as a pathway to enhance learning. And, scientists say, educators and parents should take note of the movement."



The University of Hawaii at Mānoa provides the only dance degrees available for 2,500 miles. Your dance department is essential to the art of dance, dancers, dance professionals, and dance educators. "...dance is a means to help us improve mood and cope with the stress that can motivate or interfere with concentration and learning. Influenced by body senses, environment, and culture, the brain "choreographs" dance and more," says Judith Hanna.

During extreme stress and forced endurance, dance is what any college or university needs to have in place. Not only for the dancers but everyone watching, following, and dancing.

I am speaking from my firsthand professional, artistic, and educational account. Dancing integrates the brain cells needed to persevere this incredibly difficult time we are going through. Not only with COVID-19 but with politics and racial issues, as well. Your students don't just serve themselves in your department. They stir the artistic growth and positive academic investment in your institution and island.

Please reconsider, re-evaluate, and understand the power of a dance education.

Best,

**Michael Blake**  
**Assistant Professor of Modern Dance**  
UMKC Conservatory  
Office 106C - 816.235.2955  
Cell - 646.298.5162  
[www.michaelronaldblake.com](http://www.michaelronaldblake.com)

Name	Catherine Allen
Email	tootiredtodream@yahoo.com
Phone Number	(951) 9705827
Date	09-20-2020

Letter Heading

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Signature

Name: Catherine Allen

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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

Name Alisa Sabin

Email alisa@sabins.us

Phone Number (916) 6904510

Date 09-20-2020

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

Name: Alisa Sabin

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

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State / Province: Elk Grive  
Country: United States

Name Julia Packard

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Phone Number (+614) 4908227

Date 09-09-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Name Ranjan Dharmapalan

Email ranjand@hawaii.edu

Date 09-20-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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Name Luis Moya

Email lmoyar27@gmail.com

Phone Number (916) 2544324

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Name: Luis Moya

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter



Name Makenna Hightower

Email kennaboo.hightower@gmail.com

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CC:  
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Name Elisa Spring

Email elisa@sacredrelating.com

Phone Number (808) 2926029

Date 09-19-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Name: Elisa Spring

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City: 1325 Humu'ula Street  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Laurien Nuss

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Phone Number (808) 2585111

Date 09-20-2020

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CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Name Kayla Petriello Eisenberg

Email krpe9@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (915) 5888622

Date 06-10-1999

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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Kayla Petriello Eisenberg

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Teri Skillman

Email [teri@hawaiiartsalliance.org](mailto:teri@hawaiiartsalliance.org)

Phone Number (808) 3894462

Date 09-20-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Aloha Kawika Lassner ~

You were my hula brother in the UH Music department in the 1980s. We danced with Ho'oulu Cambra and in Edward Kalahiki's halau. At that time, Dance was in the Music Department.

Judy Van Zile moved the Western Dance program to the Theatre Dept. in the 1990s, but most of the Ethnic Dance ensembles such as Korean dance, Japanese dance, hula, Tahitian dance, and Indonesian dance stayed with the Ethnomusicology Program in the Music Department.

As a Master's student in Ethnomusicology, I had the opportunity to go on tour to China with the 1986 production of The Phoenix Returns to Its Nest. We were the first Beijing Opera production from Hawai'i to tour China. We were also the first westerners to perform Beijing opera in English in China and on Chinese TV.

The Ethnomusicology ensembles are essential for the Asian Drama productions, such as the gamelan for Pencak Silat, the Japanese ensemble for Kabuki and Noh, and the Chinese ensemble for the Beijing Opera. The departments work together for productions. Without the Asian Drama Program, the Ethnomusicology ensembles would not have the opportunity to perform. Both departments have an international reputation that UHM cannot brush aside and ignore.

I urge you to look at the UH yearbooks in the Archives on the 5th floor of Hamilton Library. The Theatre Dept. has quite a history of productions. If the UH campus had been better planned, there could have been a Performing Arts Complex to house the Music, Dance & Theatre Programs instead of the programs being spread out across the campus.

Removing the Dance and Theatre Departments would violate students' civil and human rights. The DOE is already guilty of this in public education in Hawai'i. Participation and training in the Arts are protected under the First Amendment as freedom of expression. The University is a State institution established to provide education for the public. I am deeply dismayed that the Arts are not viewed as a core subject, as an essential discipline. Creative students must have avenues for education in the Arts in the State of Hawaii. Depriving students of the opportunity to study dance and theatre at the State University would be a violation of rights.

Not only as an alumnus of UHM but as the CEO for the Hawaii Arts Alliance, I must protest strongly and in no uncertain terms, the proposal to eliminate Dance and Theatre programs 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.

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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.

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and public-serving way to survive and thrive.

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Signature

Name: Teri Skillman

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 2833 Nihi St  
State / Province: Honolulu, HI  
Country: United States

Name Meredith Barnes

Email danceart@outlook.com

Phone Number (757) 3324318

Date 09-21-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

As a dance educator in public schools, it is vital that dance programs are available for higher education. It is not only a fine art but the career path for those with a dance degree is ever growing. Dance is not just physical movement. It is academic and valuable.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Meredith Barnes

Address  
City: Annandale  
State / Province: Virginia  
Country: United States

Aloha Kawika Lassner ~

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my point of view to you and the Board of Regents. I hope you don't mind, but I need to make this letter personal.

You were my hula brother in the UH Music Department in the 1980s. We danced with Ho'oulu Cambra and then in Edward Kalahiki's halau. At that time, Dance was in the Music Department.

Retired Dance professor Judy Van Zile moved the Western Dance program to the Theatre Dept. in the 1990s, but most of the Ethnic Dance ensembles such as Korean dance, Japanese dance, hula, Tahitian dance, and Indonesian dance stayed with the Ethnomusicology Program in the Music Department.

As a Master's student in Ethnomusicology, I had the opportunity to go on tour to China with the 1986 production of The Phoenix Returns to Its Nest. We were the first Beijing Opera production from Hawai'i to tour China. We were also the first westerners to perform Beijing opera in English in China and on Chinese TV. As a student of hula, I had the privilege of dancing hula for our cultural exchange that was televised on Chinese TV.

The Ethnomusicology ensembles are essential for the Asian Drama productions (and vice versa), such as the gamelan for Pencak Silat, the Japanese ensemble for Kabuki and Noh, and the Chinese ensemble for the Beijing Opera. The departments work together for productions. Without the Asian Drama Program, the Ethnomusicology ensembles would not have the opportunity to perform. Both departments have an international reputation that cannot be brushed aside and ignored.

I urge you to look at the UHM yearbooks in the Archives on the 5th floor of Hamilton Library. The Theatre Dept. has quite a history of productions. If the UH campus had been better planned, there could have been a Performing Arts Complex to house the Music, Dance & Theatre Programs instead of the programs being spread out across the campus.

Removing the Dance and Theatre Departments would violate students' civil and human rights. The DOE is already guilty of this in public education in Hawai'i. Participation and training in the Arts are protected under the First Amendment as freedom of expression. The University is a State institution established to provide education for the public. I am deeply dismayed that the Arts are not viewed as a core subject, as an essential discipline. Creative students must have avenues for education in the Arts in the State of Hawaii. Depriving students of the opportunity to study dance and theatre at the State University would be a violation of civil and human rights.

Not only as an alumnus of UHM but as the CEO for the Hawaii Arts Alliance, I must protest strongly and in no uncertain terms, the proposal to eliminate Dance and Theatre programs at UHM.

Respectfully,  
Teri Skillman  
Hawaii Arts Alliance

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to strongly ask you to reconsider the proposed cuts to the Theatre and Dance programs at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. As a specialist in Asian theatre, I cannot begin to express how influenced my own career has been by graduate, students, and professors in your program. The strength of UHM in Asian theatre research and scholarship cannot be understated.

To my knowledge, there is not another program in the country that addresses this underserved and underdeveloped area of scholarship the way UHM does. To cut the PhD, whose graduates have literally created this field, as well as the MFA, which enhances the artistic work of both the Hawaii and the international community, seems both incredibly shortsighted. The funding saved would not remotely equal the loss to the scholarly community of both the state of Hawaii and the field of theatre, both in the United States and the world.

Please let me know if I can provide you with more direct and concrete examples of how the graduate programs in theatre have positively directly impacted my work.

Sincerely,

David Jortner

-- David Jortner, PhD.  
Associate Professor of Theatre/Graduate Program Director  
Book Review Editor, *Asian Theatre Journal*  
Baylor University  
One Bear Place #97262  
Waco TX 76798-7262  
(254) 710-6452

[David\\_Jortner@Baylor.edu](mailto:David_Jortner@Baylor.edu)

"I think theatre should always be somewhat suspect"—Vaclav Havel

Dear President Lassner,

It is with great concern and urgency that I write in support of dance at University of Hawaii, Manoa, which I have heard is in danger of elimination.

University of Hawaii Dance Program is internationally renowned for its comprehensive inclusion of Asian, Pacific, and "Western" dance genres. It is one of the early dance programs in higher education, carrying the role of embodied education as central to knowledge construction. It was a founding member of the Council of Dance Administrators, pioneering the role of embodied knowledge in higher education. Dance at the University of Hawaii, Manoa promises continued international impact, visibility and recognition.

As you may be aware, all of our most urgent contemporary issues are deeply embedded in issues of the body: Black Lives Matter, Sustainability, the MeToo movement, the current pandemic. Dance is unique in addressing these issues from an embodied perspective. University of Hawaii's program is recognized for its study of culture and cultural understanding (and the inclusion of Pacific dance in particular) as an embodied and creative practice. It is an example of the ways in which higher education is vital and directly relevant to our contemporary world and the issues we face.

I write this letter from the perspective of my experience in dance in higher education. In addition to having served as faculty and chair of the Dance Department at Wesleyan University, I serve as director of Wesleyan's Allbritton Center for the Study Public Life, the hub of university engagement in public life. I am concurrently working on a United Nations funded project in which dance plays a central role in international peace, reconciliation and the healing of intergenerational trauma. In each of these contexts, dance and movement are proven to be one of the most effective modes of understanding, creative action, and positive social change.

It is well known that the least forward-thinking institutions cut arts first when faced with financial challenges. Please keep in mind that University of Hawaii has an established reputation for its cutting edge role in higher education, and that cutting the Dance Program will stand out as a permanent and highly visible regressive act.

I urge you, in the midst of current financial challenges, to preserve the art of dance and movement as one of the hallmarks of University of Hawaii's reputation as an international leader in higher education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katja Kolcio

**KATJA KOLCIO, Ph.D.**

Director, Allbritton Center  
Associate Professor

Dance Department  
Environmental Studies  
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Wesleyan University | Middletown, CT

Name Laura Chakravarty Box, Ph.D., M.B.A., L.V.T.

Email L.CHAKRABOX@GMAIL.COM

Phone Number (207) 8734152

Date 09-21-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David 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 am writing as a an alumna of the UHM Theatre and Dance, where I earned my doctorate in 2000. I chose UHM because of its unique focus on the theatres of the Pacific Rim. The department is legendary. As the child of a Far East Asian art historian, I grew up with books by UHM performing arts scholars James Brandon and Earl Ernst on my family bookshelves. The day I was accepted by the program was one of the most extraordinary days of my life, and the day I graduated was another.

By an accident of inclination, I did not end up specializing in the theatres of the Pacific Rim. I became a North Africanist. This change was cataclysmic for me, and disruptive for my mentors at UHM. It was born of my growing consciousness of the colonial history of the Hawai'ian archipelago and an encounter with postcolonial theory in the person of Dr. Miriam Sharma. UHM Theatre and Dance stretched itself to accommodate this growth. At a time when most scholars narrow their focus, mine expanded.

Perhaps I flatter myself when I say that the students to whom I have taught theatre history, directing, acting, dramaturgy, the ethics and aesthetics of performance, and seminars on the theatres of Africa have benefitted from my training at UHM. I count among my former students performing artists, stage designers, a Hollywood film producer, a museum curator, medical doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, activists, teachers, scientists, and Karin Shankar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at the Pratt Institute. Dr. Shankar's areas of interest include performance studies in and from the Global South; contemporary performance and visual culture in South Asia; urban studies; political economies of culture; transnational feminist theory and aesthetics; and decolonial studies. I would like to think that, because she studied with me as an undergraduate, UHM had at least a small part in shaping her trajectory.

While none of my former students have ever taken a class at UHM, or contributed to its coffers, they are all just a little bit richer for having encountered UHM through me, just as I was profoundly influenced by the great theatre historian Oscar Brockett, whom I never met, because he trained Dr. Lurana Donnels O'Malley, my dissertation advisor. If UHM Theatre and Dance has touched so many through me, how many more have been touched by the other teaching members of my cohort, as well as those that came before and after me? Scholarship expands exponentially. I am a link in a chain.

If you kill the degree programs in theatre and dance at UHM, you will be destroying a national treasure. This is not to say that UHM Theatre and Dance should be preserved in amber. It is dynamic, richly layered, problematic, and as subject to growing pains as I was during my doctoral studies. This is as it should be.

The performing arts are not about the bottom line. The return on the University's investment in its Department of Theatre and Dance cannot be calculated by counting beans. Without Theatre and Dance, UHM will have lost a large part of what makes it unique as an institution. I urge you to think carefully before you shatter this legacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

--LCB

I did not author other remarks in this letter, but I second them.

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 Chakravarty Box

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Waterville  
State / Province: ME  
Country: United States

Name Rachel Miller

Email rkb16@zips.uakron.edu

Phone Number (330) 2853571

Date 09-21-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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## Signature

Name: Rachel Miller

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Honolulu  
State / Province: Hawai'i  
Country: United States

Dear President Lassner,

I am a UH-Manoa alumnus ('86, Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa) and proudly acknowledge my association and experience with the Dance Program, which has, since its historic inception, inspired countless performers, creators, administrators, educators and advocates in and beyond the field of dance, throughout the world. Many of my mentors today, were my professors at UH-M Dance; their constructive influence continues to linger in my life. As a product of the program, I can attest to the value of dance to the UH community as well as to the culture-at-large.

Here's a brief recap of my professional experience. I moved to New York City soon after graduation. I have danced professionally and toured internationally with Pilobolus and many other dance companies; collaborated with artists such as the Brentano String Quartet, Natsuko Hattori and Michael Moschen; directed the New York City Ballet Education Department, 92Y Harkness Dance Center and Dance Education Laboratory; and now teach at New York University Steinhardt and Drew University. My life is dedicated to study, teach, perform, create and produce dance, which I have always known to be a deeply powerful, transformative, galvanizing experience.

To be frank, I am not unlike other graduates of the program, who teach in public and independent schools, private studios, halau, universities, cultural organizations and community centers, from toddlers to seniors. I am not unlike those alumni who now administer private businesses, cultural foundations and arts institutions, who build and lead companies. I am not unlike those who conduct and write meaningful research about the dance discipline. I am not unlike those from the dance program who have become activists and advocates for social and environmental justice. I am very much like those who continue to design and produce art, who make beauty as a profession. I am certain that the majors and graduate students who are currently enrolled will graduate to leave their imprimatur on the world. Moreover, I have also always known how the dance program serves non-majors. I, an English major with plans to become a lawyer, was one of them. The UH-M dance program helped to redirect my life.

I was lucky to be born on Maui in a first-generation, Filipino-American family that valued the rich and diverse legacies of its adopted home, especially through the cultural dances to which we were exposed. The dance program at UH-M contextualized these childhood experiences and introduced me to the Western canon and visionaries of classical and contemporary modern dance, which ultimately inspired me to pursue this life in the arts with zeal, imagination and intellect. Dance at UHM historically has been one-of-kind--truly, one of the few places in the world--where the diversity of dance is an organic extension of the rich embodied traditions of the surrounding communities, the dance program is a hub with spokes that extend to places around the Pacific, throughout Asia, and to global centers of culture, like New York. Few universities can boast of such an international reach. The opportunity to learn about others by dancing across cultural boundaries and through history is a lesson that UH-M has modeled for the world and should continue to do so.

Furthermore, I trust you and the rest of the UH-M leadership are aware of the transferable skills and intelligences that a serious dance education--one that is imbedded in an institution of higher learning--brings to its students as well as to the communities it serves. You are likely aware of how dance--hula and hip hop, for examples--can restore and revive a whole culture. And, you probably do not need to be reminded how dancing bodies set the energetic tone for

humanity and community to happen. As a dance educator, I have seen too many examples of how dance has engaged a student, saved a life and elevated a community from dire circumstances.

I am seriously concerned about this elimination or demotion of a rigorous major-degree program. As the only legitimate curriculum of its kind within 2,000+ miles, such a backward act would force future artists and scholars to seek their learning abroad, cripple the development of the local performing arts community, and, worse, prohibit access to quality, meaningful dance experiences that every healthy population needs. More and more, history and research are telling us how we humans need to dance, how the arts are activators of the cultural landscape and robust agents of the economy. The pandemic has made this lack particularly acute as we find ourselves thirsting for access to theaters and live performance.

I urge you to reject this proposal to end the dance program. In place, I strongly suggest that you do quite the opposite, to recognize the gem of a department that exists in your, so to speak, backyard and provide the support that will bring future returns and credibility. I would be delighted to entertain any questions or responses to this letter.

Respectfully,  
John-Mario Sevilla

Name Marty Wong

Email marthanwong@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 3894936

Date 09-21-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

I can't imagine not being able to attend any of the many wonderful, controversial and emotive performances at UHM Kennedy Center that would not be possible without the theater arts at UHM. I am a member of the local community, retired military and avid supporter of the scholastic and community arts. Please consider the loss and impact this will have on students who wish to pursue this honorable scholastic endeavor as well as the loss and impact on the community.

Letter Body:

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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: Marty Wong

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

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

September 20, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the dance degree program at the University of Hawai'i. I am a proud 2008 graduate, holding an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography. The UHM Dance department is a truly unique degree program and its elimination would not only negatively impact the arts in Hawai'i, but would be an unrecoverable loss to the field of dance.

As I understand it, the elimination of the departments of Theatre and Dance will not even save the university any significant amount of money. The arts should not be disposable, and given the rich tradition of dance, music and theatrical performance in the history of Hawai'i, it is shocking that dance education would be on any short list of programs to be eliminated at UHM. The idea of a University of Hawai'i without a dance degree should frankly be unthinkable.

Residents of Hawai'i should not have to travel to the mainland to receive a completely different type of dance education than they would at home in Hawai'i, where Hawaiian and other Asian/Pacific traditions are alive, present, respected, honored, included and masterfully taught. Financially and logistically, mainland education is out of reach for many Hawai'i residents, but more importantly, mainland dance programs and conservatories are primarily focused on Western forms with little or no inclusion or understanding of Asian/Pacific traditions. Not only are non-Western forms not widely taught in mainland programs, they are quite misunderstood and undervalued there.

There is no replacement for a BA, BFA, MA or MFA in dance from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa; it provides an important and often overlooked perspective due to its geographical location and the surrounding culture. It is a singular educational experience. The impact of the UHM Dance program on the field of dance through the work of its graduates is far-reaching. UHM Dance graduates are creating extremely impactful artistic work, performing and presenting in important venues, teaching in highly respected settings, and holding positions of authority in arts organizations.

I would not be who I am today had I not studied at UHM from 2005-2008 earning my MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography. My experiences inside and outside of the classroom could never have been duplicated elsewhere in the world. Studying in Hawai'i profoundly impacted my worldview and the trajectory of my life and career. The dance MFA was rigorous beyond what I could ever have imagined, and I was taught, mentored, supported, guided, and advised by the most generous artists in the field. All of my professors - *all of them* - continue to support and advise me to this day.

I emerged with my MFA an accomplished artist, and I have continued to build on that foundation ever since. It hurts me greatly to think that the Dance program at UHM could disappear and that the opportunities and education that I received could no longer be available. That would truly be a tragic loss to the University, to the state of Hawai'i and its residents and artists, and to the field of dance as a whole. Again, I ask wholeheartedly and urgently that you do what ever is necessary to preserve this very important program of study.

Sincerely,

Beth McKee Elliott

MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography, 2008

Creator/Director - Small Plates Choreography Festival

To Whom it May Concern,

Maintaining the dance, theater, women's studies, ethnic studies, and foreign language programs is essential for fulfilling UH's mission:

...to provide environments in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will help ensure the survival of present and future generations with improvement in the quality of life... and support vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

Reorganizing these programs in a manner that decreases each department's ability to provide the highest quality of instruction, violates UH's mission statement by not 1) improving the quality of life for present and future generations, and 2) supporting vigorous programs of Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

Assuming that the decision regarding which programs to reorganize was based on a calculation that correlated the number of enrollees in each individual program with the financial cost and/or contribution of each program, it is significant for stakeholders to consider that this calculation provides a narrow and short-sighted view of the value of these programs. For this valuation focuses on the annual cost and profit of programs in isolation and fails to consider how student, alumni, and faculty interactions in the community support the achievement of younger students, thereby contributing to high school graduate rates and a growth in the number of prospective students for all programs at UH. A wealth of research on the impact of arts on dropout rates has been collected by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (Brown, 2017). Notably, Elpus (2013) found that **former students of the arts were 29% more likely than former non-arts students to have earned a four-year college degree by age 24-32**. Also, Beveridge (2010) found that:

Studying the arts promotes academic self-efficacy and school engagement (predictors of persistence to graduation), and it enhances socioemotional skills valued in social relationships, the workplace, and education settings.

While a student in UH's dance program, I participated in ArtsBridge, a program that utilized teaching artists to write and implement arts-integrated lesson plans to address core curriculum standards including math, language arts, and social studies. The UH dance program thus directly increased community access to arts education at no cost to participating schools and promoted the development of prospective UH students. This is one of many available examples of the long-term contributions UH's arts and humanities degree programs make to the community and consequently to future student enrollment.

By maintaining the integrity of the aforementioned programs, UH will affirm itself as an institution that is committed to upholding its mission and an institution that understands the qualitative value of all arts and humanities programs. This enables UH to have a stronger value proposition to garner donations, grants, and partnerships with other institutions. Conversely, if UH diminishes arts and humanities degree programs that promote social justice and equity, and creates greater barriers to education for local students, there is a very high probability of this resulting in negative press, negative perceptions, and decreased enrollment in all programs for years to come as prospective students look to universities with better reputations for providing an enriching and culturally relevant environment. In addition, alumni and grantors will be less apt to financially contribute to UH if the university's actions contradict their stated mission (Shaker & Borden, 2020).

I urge you to regard the broader contributions of programs under consideration for reorganization and the long-term costs of undermining the integrity of these programs.

Sincerely,

Becca Frank, MS, OTR/L  
UH Dance alum

#### References

Beveridge, T. (2010, August 8). No Child Left Behind and fine arts classes. *Arts Education Policy Review*, 111(1), 4–7. doi: 10.1080/10632910903228090

Brown, K. (2017). The arts and dropout prevention: The power of art to engage. *A National Dropout Prevention Center/Network White Paper*. Retrieved from <https://dropoutprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/arts-and-dropout-prevention-2017-10.pdf>

Elpus, K. (2013). Arts education and positive youth development: Cognitive, behavioral, and social outcomes of adolescents who study the arts. *National Endowment for the Arts*. Retrieved from <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Research-Art-WorksMaryland.pdf>

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Name

June Chee



Email june.celica@gmail.com

Phone Number (626) 3186313

Date 09-19-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher  
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
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Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: June Chee

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: 1888 Kalakaua Avenue #3103  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

Email ewichman@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 227-0335

Date 05-26-1951

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

Name: Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Aly Ishikuni-Sasaki

Email aly@artandflea.com

Phone Number (808) 3414455

Date 09-22-2020



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

Name: Aly Ishikuni-Sasaki

I am a UH Manoa: Faculty Member

Address  
City: 1255 Nuuanu Avenue 2010  
State / Province: HI  
Country: United States

Name Madelyn Biven

Email madelyn.h.biven@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2080056

Date 09-22-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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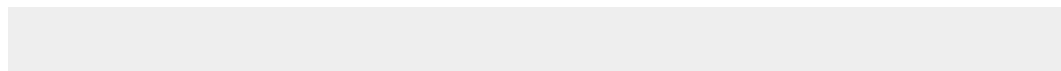
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Name	Elizabeth Bolton
Email	betty.bolton@hawaiiantel.net
Phone Number	(808) 7833355
Date	09-22-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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Please add your additional comments:	Please don't do this. Haven't you noticed that during these horribly sad and lonely Covid times that humans reach out to music and art via Netflix , movies and all the social medias. The Arts are part of the human connection and we need it in all its glorious forms.
--------------------------------------	--

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Elizabeth Bolton

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address  
City: 6770 Hawaii Kai dr  
State / Province: Honolulu HI 96825  
Country: United States

Name	Cheri Vasek
Email	cherivasek@mac.com
Phone Number	(808) 6870782
Date	09-22-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

It is more than regrettable that you are considering cuts to some of UHM's most vibrant and unique programs. Specifically, the Theatre and Dance program is unlike any other program on the planet. It is a treasure. As a former faculty member of T&D, I urge you to protect this UHM jewel.

Name Felicia Williams-Rishty

Email dance2live@hawaii.rr.com

Phone Number (808) 3899573

Date 09-22-2020

Letter Heading To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

These programs are a very valuable part of UH

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Felicia Williams Rishty

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

Address City: 1060 Kamehameha Hwy # 202-A  
State / Province: Pearl City

Name Cindy Nawilis

Email cnawilis@gmail.com

Date 09-22-2020

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  
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Name: Cindy Nawilis

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Name Dr. Julie Chisholm

Email drbucket@gmail.com

Phone Number ((408) 458-6288) (408) 458-6288

Date 09-22-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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Name: Julie Chisholm

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Los gatos  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Dr. Julie Chisholm

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Phone Number ((408) 458-6288) (408) 458-6288

Date 09-22-2020

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Name: Julie Chisholm

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Los gatos  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Kahala Johnson

Email Kahalaj@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 9568111

Date 09-22-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Kahala Johnson

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

Name Tatiana Young

Email youngt1982@gmail.com

Phone Number (206) 2261165

Date 09-22-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
UHM Provost, Michael Bruno  
The Board of Regents  
Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade  
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I am a UH Manoa: Faculty Member

Name Jessica Falcone

Email jessfalcone@yahoo.com

Date 09-23-2020

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UHM President David Lassner

CC:  
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The Board of Regents  
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Please add your additional comments:

Please don't gut these programs!

Letter Body:

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Name: Jessica Falcone

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Manhattan  
State / Province: Kansas  
Country: United States

Name Ashley Bogaerts

Email solarlove.mk@gmail.com

Phone Number (310) 7405525

Date 09-23-2020

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CC:  
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Signature

Name: Ashley Bogaerts

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address  
City: Los Angeles  
State / Province: CA  
Country: United States

Name Robert Groom Groom

Email bob@eman400.com

Phone Number (480) 882-0785

Date 09-23-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher  
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
Dear President Lassner,

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

-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:

Dear David Lassner,  
Your careful consideration of these drastic cuts are greatly appreciated.

Letter Body:

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

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

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

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

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Signature

Name: Robert Groom

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: Fountain Hills  
State / Province: Arizona  
Country: United States

Name Noelani Murray

Email mistfromheaven@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2788109

Date 09-23-2020

Letter Heading

To:  
UHM President David Lassner

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

Dance is very important to our culture here in Hawai'i. My Tahitian dance teacher graduated from UH Manoa dance program and she is just amazing so it would be very unfortunate to strip these opportunities from future students. There are other ways to save money and taking opportunities from students would severely hurt our communities.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Noelani Murray

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address City: Kilauea  
State / Province: Hawaii  
Country: United States

September 24, 2020

Ms. Betsy Fisher  
Associate Chair of Dance  
University of Hawai'i Manoa

Greetings Ms. Fisher,

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa Dance Program reflects and affirms the importance of Dance as an art form in every country and culture around the world.

UHM graduates are inspirational members of your community teaching and positively influencing almost every student K-12 in your State. These graduates also teach in private schools, run dance studios and dance companies, serve as Arts Administrators, and participate in the very important entertainment industry in Hawai'i.

My life as a dancer began as a freshman at UHM resulting in a 25-year career as a professional modern dance performer, teacher and choreographer.

I strongly urge you to continue to support the Dance Program at UHM that affirms the belief that if we do not move, we do not live.

Motion is the engine for creative thinking, acting and being.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Small  
robsmall@msn.com

Gloria Newman Modern Dance Company	1968-1971
Murray Louis Modern Dance Company	1971-1980
Robert Small and The Small Dance Company	1980-1986
Robert Small/SOLO DANCE ARTIST	1985-1993
SMALL LANDSCAPES: Landscape and Garden Design	1993-present

Name Amy Schmidt

Email schmidt.amy@hotmail.com

Phone Number (1780) 6673877

Date 09-24-2020

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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Please add your additional comments:

As an international student who studied for a semester at UH Manoa, the UHM Dance program was instrumental in my post-secondary studies and career. I wouldn't be who I am today without the UHM Dance program.

Letter Body:

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

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Signature

Name: Amy Schmidt

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Edmonton  
State / Province: Alberta  
Country: Canada

Name Rohaizad Suaidi

Email msuaidi@towson.edu

Phone Number (443) 4149633

Date 02-09-1982

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  
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Signature

Name: Rohaizad Suaidi

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: Baltimore  
State / Province: Maryland  
Country: United States

September 24, 2020

Betsy Fisher, Associate Chair of Dance

I am writing to you regarding the University's intention of discontinuing the current Dance Program.

During this time of global precariousness the UHM Dance Program is more important than ever as part of a world center of arts and culture.

Motion stimulates and engages a critical and creative mind.

I have visited Hawai'i and Hawai'i moves...as do your graduates, current, and your future students.

I urge you to consider the impact your decision will have on the future of the dance communities' contribution to the entire State of Hawai'i.

I have been teaching "Principles of Dance Composition and Motional Research at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts for the past 35 years and know what I am talking about. I would be grateful if you could hear and 'feel' my words.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Lamhut  
plamhut@msn.com

Principal Dancer: Nikolais Dance Co.  
Principal Dancer: Murray Louis Dance Co.  
Choreographer/Dancer Phyllis Lamhut Dance Co.  
Guggenheim Foundation Fellow  
Awarded 16 National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships  
Published in the Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy

Name Gavin Bush

Email gavingb@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (336) 5011647

Date 09-24-2020

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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Letter Body:

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Signature

Name:	Gavin Bush
I am a UH Manoa:	Student
Address	City: Honolulu State / Province: HI Country: United States

415C Uluniu Street • Kailua, Hawaii  
96734

September 24, 2020

David Lassner  
Office of the President  
david.lassner@hawaii.edu Bachman Hall 202  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Email to: david@hawaii.edu

Re: University of Hawaii / Department of Theatre and Dance

Dear President Lassner:

The Hawai'i Pono'i Coalition was formed in 2007 by a group of Native Hawaiian serving organizations to educate those who live in and visit Hawaii about its true history and the Native Hawaiian people. From inception the Coalition has used mele, ha'i mo'olelo, pule, oli, hula and performance to tell our history.

We are writing in support of the University of Hawai'i's Department of Theatre and Dance. We vigorously oppose the proposed cuts and reductions of degree programs recently made public and urge you to keep all of them in place.

The Hawai'i Pono'i Coalition has since 2009 produced live theater as part of our mission of educating residents and visitors of Hawai'i's true history, its people, and native culture. One of our signature events (of a trilogy) has been *Mai Poina: The Overthrow*, the first play of a trilogy. This living history production educates audiences about the critical events leading up to the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and it remains a vibrant and exciting way of fostering understanding of Kanaka Maoli history.

*Mai Poina: The Overthrow*, *The Trial of a Queen*, and *The Annexation Debate* were written by a UH MA Theatre graduate, directed by a UH PhD Theatre graduate, and over the years has been performed by a number of UH theatre graduates. These Department of Theatre and Dance graduates learned their craft at the university and chose to stay in Hawai'i, sharing their knowledge and talent with its people.

David Lassner September  
21, 2020 Page2  
Re: University of Hawaii / Department of Theatre and Dance

We ask that you maintain the Theatre & Dance programs as they are, ensuring that Hawai'i and all its people may continue to benefit in tangible and intangible ways.

Mahala for your attention,

• , ;t i

cc: UHM Provost Michael Bruno  
(mbruno2@hawaii.edu)

Dean Peter Arnade (parnade@hawaii.edu)  
Associate Dean Tom Brislin (tbrislin@hawaii.edu)  
Associate Dean Kimi Kondo-Brown (kondo@hawaii.edu)  
T&D Chair Markus Wessendorf (wessendo@hawaii.edu)  
T&D Associate Chair Julie Iezzi (iezzi@hawaii.edu) T&D  
Associate Chair Betsy Fisher ([efisher@hawaii.edu](mailto:efisher@hawaii.edu))  
Hawaiiinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge (osorio@hawaii.edu) YA:kmt

Name	Christopher Gray
Email	cgray8@hawaii.edu
Phone Number	(571) 2463864
Date	02-20-1988

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  
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Name: Christopher Gray

I am a UH Manoa: Student

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

Name Crystal Boyce

Email cboyce@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 6004375

Date 09-24-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher  
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
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Name: Crystal Boyce

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address Country: United States

Name Art Koshi

Email artkoshi@gmail.com

Phone Number (808) 2862693

Date 09-21-2020

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

As a former accompanist for the dance department (17+ years), I have seen firsthand, the value of this program and the high quality of dancers it can really produce. This is truly a program worth saving.

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: Art Koshi

I am a UH Manoa: Supporter

Address City: Seattle  
State / Province: WA  
Country: United States

Name Colleen Rost-Banik

Email mcrb@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (808) 729-1670

Date 09-25-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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Signature

Name: Colleen Rost-Banik

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address  
City: 430 Lewers St  
State / Province: Honolulu, HI  
Country: United States

Name Brittaney Key

Email bikey@ucdavis.edu

Date 09-25-2020

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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Please add your additional comments:

Creativity and the arts are so often devalued as if they are less important than science, math, or grammar. But these programs are key to students' success by providing stress relief, AND, moreover, fostering and expressing creativity through dance, music, theater, and other forms encourages the very kind of innovation mindset we need in our scientists, doctors, policy makers, and problem-solvers. Not to mention, the arts are inherently valuable in and of themselves, and to diminish them otherwise perpetuates a legacy of the false intellectual/technical superiority of STEM fields. I have always prided myself on belonging to an education community that valued music and the arts (I am a Moanalua HS alum) while schools on mainland were cutting fine arts programs to the detriment of their students. It would be a shame if that value and mentality disappeared at the highest levels of education in Hawaii.

Letter Body:

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Signature

Name: Brittaney Key

I am a UH Manoa: Community Member

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

Name Christine Funsch

Email xtfunsch@gmail.com

Phone Number (415) 9025371

Date 09-27-2020

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  
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Signature

Name:	Christine Funsch
Address	City: San Francisco State / Province: CA Country: United States

Dear President Lassner:

I am reaching out to you as a former University of Hawai'i dance and theatre department faculty member. I recently became aware of the proposed cut of these essential programs and degrees. I'm sure that you have received many arguments for keeping these programs. Including the distance to the next nearest program being over 2,500 miles away, the essential good and job fulfillment the program graduates are fulfilling in the state of Hawaii and around the globe. I would also encourage you to consider two other factors.

First, there are few universities where students can study a variety of world dance/cultural dance forms. The University of Hawai'i is unique in its offerings of Hula, Tahitian, Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, Philippine, Chinese dance, Bollywood. Due to its unique location, student body and faculty, the Department of Dance is a protector and perpetuator of these living traditions. Many of these dances – similar to oral traditions – are only passed down from teacher to student. This is a sacred trust and an experience that cannot be gained at other institutions. This supports the university's responsibility to be a guardian of knowledge and a preserver of this sacred domain.

And second, when the 'common purpose of the University of Hawaii system of institutions is to serve the public by creating, preserving, and transmitting knowledge in a multi-cultural environment,' this is the time to 'take advantage of Hawaii's unique location' and rich cultural setting and 'ensure the survival of present and future generations.' We must be careful not to be casual in our protection of culture. It is interesting to note, historically and currently, that conquering countries and ideologies typically prioritize destroying existing art and art practices. This should give us cause to consider the importance of preserving artistic practices – such as dance and theatre.

This is a time of change. Pandemic, social unrest and economic factors are demanding change. As a former faculty member and as a former dean, I understand these pressures firsthand. However, there are some programs that deserve safeguarding. There are also some creative thinking skills that should also be protected in institutional education. This is my petition to you that the dance and theatre department at the University of Hawai'i is one of these programs.

Sincerely,

Kristi Burns  
Former UHM Faculty

Name Chance Runyon

Email chancekr@hawaii.edu

Phone Number (907) 2299943

Date 11-14-1995

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  
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Please add your additional comments:

As a graduate of UHM I had many classmates and friends who pursued theatre and dance. Many of them have gone on to do what they love and enjoy in many aspects of the arts. I would hate to see UH Mānoa close it's doors to future students who seek the same experiences my friends had in the beautiful place I am lucky to call home 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 comparable number of graduates every year.

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Signature

Name: Chance Runyon

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

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

Dear Colleagues,

In my capacities as Cofounder of the IFTR Embodied Research Working Group, Executive Director at Intercultural Roots and Research Associate at the University of California, Davis (Theatre & Dance) I would like to formally lodge my protest and request that you do not cut all the programs being considered - in particular those Theatre and Dance programs whose excellence I have first hand experienced at the University of Hawaii Manoa

I recall in late 2015 being invited by Dr Kara Jhalak Miller (and Eric Chang from the East-West Center) alongside Professors Lynette Hunter and Peter Lichtenfels to work with students and faculty at the University and being hugely impressed by the quality, commitment and community connections of all concerned at Theatre and Dance. I was also similarly impressed in regard to the East-West Center and the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge.

Your (draft) recommendations to cancel a large number of dance degrees, theatre MA, theatre PhD and decrease the theatre MFA seem short sighted. The department faculty is already low in comparison to provision and might offer little cost saving against the considerable loss of expertise and experience.

While I understand that Covid-19 presents economic challenges to all of us, there are ways to adapt and discover opportunities in order for it to become sustainable. Online distance and blended learning seems an apt way to accommodate this. My own organisation, Intercultural Roots, adapted from studio based work to being wholly online within one week of realising there would be a Covid related lockdown in the UK. Our participation and income actually increased as we responded to meet the communities needs. The creative industries are particularly important in cultivating the mindsets required for dealing with change and in educating people to become creators of an ethical future. A Theatre & Dance programme I helped create and will teach this quarter at UC Davis has actually increased its intake while many students are off-campus due to Covid. Utilising Canvas and Zoom to deliver is actually creating opportunities for attracting many more students into Theatre & Dance programmes as adapt to find ways to enable the teaching of embodied practices including movement and dance online. I would be more than pleased to assist you in realising and developing this to help stave off the cuts you are considering.

I understand that Phase 2 of your plan looks "to re-make the university to be more efficient, more effective, and more directly focused on the needs of Hawaii today" well I beg you to also consider "tomorrow" and not to 'throw the baby out with the bath water' and consider the extremely valuable human and legacy assets you have. The arts should not become a casualty of efficiency cuts - without investment in the arts and artists of tomorrow - the culture and fabric of community and society will only suffer. The arts provide an opportunity for society to reflect and critique itself to build a better future and should be held high in fighting the challenges Covid poses.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alex Boyd PhD, PG Dip  
alex@interculturalroots.org  
amcboyd@ucdavis.edu  
+447753611768

President David Lassner  
University of Hawai'i Manoa  
Submitted by e-mail

15 September 2020

Dear President Lassner:

Please find attached a letter on behalf of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) regarding the threatened closures of the program in Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i Manoa (UHM). As President of ATHE, I speak on behalf of approximately fifteen hundred faculty members, university administrators, adjunct and part-time faculty, and graduate students across the world and I encourage you to seriously reconsider the proposal to "stop-out" the programs in Theatre and Dance. While I acknowledge that the challenges of these times create a need to make hard decisions, moving ahead with these potential closures would be a significant misstep as UHM moves forward into the twenty-first century.

Yours Sincerely,

Josh

**Dr. Joshua Abrams**

Vice Dean

Director of Learning and Teaching

**The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama**

**University of London**

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Pronouns: He/Him/His

*The nature of my work means that I sometimes work outside of normal working hours. There is no expectation on you to respond outside of your normal working hours.*

Dear President Lassner and Provost Bruno:

I am writing on behalf of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) regarding the threatened closures of the program in Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i Manoa (UHM). As President of ATHE, I

speak on behalf of approximately fifteen hundred faculty members, university administrators, adjunct and part-time faculty, and graduate students across the world and I encourage you to seriously reconsider the proposal to “stop-out” the programs in Theatre and Dance. While I acknowledge that the challenges of these times create a need to make hard decisions, moving ahead with these potential closures would be a significant misstep as UHM moves forward into the twenty-first century.

The Theatre program at UHM is renowned globally for its offerings and specialist expertise, particularly in Asian Theatre and Hawaiian Theatre, for both of which it is among the most preeminent providers anywhere in the world. Closing or significantly reducing these programs would have a significant negative impact on the possibilities for studying these subjects and on the world’s knowledge of them going forward, not only for Hawaiians, but far more broadly; it would greatly impact the furtherance of these important modes of academic study.

At a moment when there is global emphasis on the need to engage diverse voices and to explore a range of forms beyond the more conservative western canon, the threat to such notable programs cannot be underestimated. Scholars and practitioners who have studied at UHM in the past have greatly advanced the fields and have ensured that, especially within the US, Asian and indigenous Hawaiian theatre forms have continued to gain prominence and to be present in key discourses of performance traditions, practices and futures.

Theatre and Dance are not simply important topics of study in their own right, but across the curriculum for students pursuing other careers. Regular studies and surveys of business leaders show that the skills and knowledges taught in studying these art forms—collaboration, creativity, clear communication, public speaking, improvisation, emotional intelligence—are valuable across all career paths. In her excellent 2012 book *Artistic Literacy*, Professor Nancy Kindelan clearly articulates the value of theatre pedagogy to the contemporary learner, writing “A theatre program’s high-impact curricular and pedagogical practices develop Liberal

Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) essential learning outcomes by encouraging cross- departmental connections, improving problem-solving skills through active rather than passive learning, and enriching cultural understanding and civic responsibility through problem-based inquiry—the study of plays and performances” (118). I hope that you will look at and carefully consider such texts as this, or Jill Dolan’s *Geographies of Learning* (2001) or Michelle Hayford and Susan Kattwinkel’s 2018 *Performing Arts as High-Impact Practice*, as you look at the future of teaching Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai’i Manoa.

I am happy to discuss this further with you, should you have questions or concerns. I can be reached at [president@athe.org](mailto:president@athe.org).

Sincerest Regards,  
Joshua Abrams, PhD  
President, Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Director of Learning and Teaching  
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London

CC:  
Michael Bruno, UHM Provost  
[COVID19@hawaii.edu](mailto:COVID19@hawaii.edu)  
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  
Markus Wessendorf, Chair of Theatre Betsy  
Fisher, Associate Chair of Dance

Dear President Lassner,

As a musician and performer on the Honolulu cultural scene, I am concerned to hear that the University of Hawai'i is considering cutting funding for several cultural and social science bachelors' programs.

While I understand that budgetary conditions must be very difficult at the moment, I would urge you to maintain funding for these programs. B.A. programs in theater, dance, languages, and journalism bring cultural understanding and openness to Hawaii and are important drivers of innovation. Such programs allow Honolulu to attract bright and talented young individuals. To lose them would be to forfeit the vibrancy of Honolulu's cultural landscape.

As a university in the middle of a cultural crossroads, it is of the utmost importance that UH continue to foster and develop the arts and social sciences. I hope that you will keep this in mind when reviewing the university's financial situation.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Mager  
Concerned Citizen

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
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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.

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

September 25, 2020

Dear President Lassner,

Monkey Waterfall  
P. O. Box 579 Aiea, HI 96701

monkeywaterfall@gmail.com

My name is Yukie Shiroma. I am a third generation Okinawan-American born in Hawai'i. I am a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and director. After graduating with an MFA in dance from UHM in 1987, I had an opportunity to move to New York City to further my skills in Dance Notation which I had learned at UHM as part of my MFA degree program. Just before leaving, I was offered a position at Mid-Pacific Institute to start and build a dance program within the School of the Arts, a pre-professional performing and visual arts program for 6-12 grades, the first in Hawai'i. The chance to able to create and direct a dance program for local students was too enticing to pass up so I stayed.

The MPI school administration at the time understood the power and role of the arts in building students' self-confidence, self-discipline, compassion, and creative problem- solving skills.

By the time I retired in 2006, the Mid-Pacific Dance Program had become an internationally recognized and award-winning dance program that regularly sends its graduates to top-tier colleges and universit;as including Juilliard. Many of our graduates return home after performing careers elsewhere to teach in our schools, thus passing on invaluable knowledge and experience. Of my seven dance faculty at Mid-Pacific Institute, all but one were graduates of the BA, MA, and MFA Dance Program at UHM.

In 2013, I was invited to join the UHM dance faculty to teach Okinawan Dance, a court and folk tradition I had been studying for the last 30 years in the community. I was deeply honored to be a part of a legacy started by a honored pioneer of cultural diversity, UHM Professor Emerita of Music Barbara Smith who dedicated her life to bringing the performing arts of Hawai'i, and the greater Pacific and Asia to the University. And this was decades before Ryukyu dance and music were taught at universities in the

homeland of Okinawa. Currently, nowhere else in the country can a university student take classes in Western/European dance traditions as well as numerous Asia and Pacific artforms, often taught by indigenous cultural practitioner/teachers, that is part of a dance degree program. Our diversity is precisely our strength, as you and others in the Administration have often stated.

As Artistic Director of a Honolulu-based non-profit mask theatre company, I credit the experience that I gained in pursuit of my MFA degree which allowed me to write for grants; direct and produce shows every few years ; and regularly employ local dancers and musicians, designers, and technical staff from the community. Our Company is composed primarily of UHM dance and theatre faculty and students who all carry the genetics of the program.

We talk about diversifying our economy. It is times like this when we need to pay close attention to what makes up the fabric and strength of our communities and move in directions to build upon what's working. This is not only about education, but also about opportunity. We should, in fact, be *increasing* our support for programs that celebrate the uniqueness of our home and recognize these contributions as the true pillars of our communities. I believe these efforts will long survive any economic downturn.

The proposed cuts to the Dance Program, President Lassner, are exceptionally short-sighted and without understanding of the program's intrinsic and pervasive value-something that cannot be measured in numbers.

In attempting to trim the tree, you are not cutting the branches, but cutting its roots. I humbly ask that you consider carefully the repercussions of your actions.

Aloha,

shiromay@hawaii.edu Okinawan  
Dance Lecturer, UHM  
Artistic Director, Monkey Waterfall

Dear President Lassner:

It has come to my attention that there are plans to severely cut funding to the University of Hawaii/Manoa's Dance Program thereby essentially dismantling it. This letter is coming to you as a protest of such an action and to urge you and others involved to find a way to save this excellent program that has impacted so many around the globe for decades.

I am an Emeritus Professor of Dance at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT) where I served as Chair of that Department for eight years. Subsequently, I served as the Associate Dean and Interim Dean of The Graduate School there. In 1985-86 I had the pleasure of teaching as a guest faculty member in the Dance Program at UHM. Several recently retired faculty members from that program are valued colleagues and I've worked professionally over the course of my career with numerous alums from that program as well.

The Dance Program at UHM, founded by Karl Wolz, is one of the pioneer Dance Programs in Higher Education in the United States. It is one of the greats. The unique curriculum, which includes many cultural dance offerings, does not exist in any other dance program that I know of. It would be a tragedy and a great loss for the reputation of the University to dismantle such a well regarded and highly respected dance program.

As a former administrator, I fully understand the financial constraints all Universities are facing, particularly at this time. I also know that there are ways to save academic programs that are performing well and drawing in students. I urge you to save this excellent and highly reputable Dance Program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna White  
Professor Emeritus School of Dance  
Former Associate Dean, The Graduate School  
University of Utah

Name Rohini Acharya

Email acharya.48@osu.edu

Phone Number (951) 312-6080

Date 09-30-2020

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  
Associate Chair of Theatre, Julie Iezzi  
Associate Chair of Dance, Betsy Fisher  
Chair of Theatre and Dance, Markus Wessendorf  
Dear President Lassner,

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Please add your additional comments:

When I started the MFA program in Dance in 2011, I was excited to pursue my degree in an environment rich with dance, music, and theatre traditions from different parts of Asia and the Pacific region. I was particularly excited because of my own training in a South Asian classical dance form called Bharata Natyam. As I reflect on this excitement in my current capacity as a PhD Student in Dance Studies at The Ohio State University, I can honestly say that the UH Manoa Dance program is truly one of a kind. The MFA program allowed me to cross more boundaries into dance and performance traditions than I had experienced before, such as Hula, Butoh, and Taiko. Each enriched my technique and choreography. The graduate dance history and theory classes I took at UH Manoa only increased my thirst for intellectually understanding the love I have for practicing Bharata Natyam. The UH Manoa program is unique in that it allowed me as a practitioner of a non-Western dance form to pursue and receive a degree that is often reserved for practitioners of ballet, modern, and contemporary dance. Eliminating the dance degrees at UH Manoa will be a disservice to a dance studies field that is in the midst of decentering and decolonizing the American/European dance canon. The UH Manoa Dance program has been doing this work by offering dance and performance opportunities in a variety of Asian and Pacific dance traditions.

I'm forever grateful to the UH dance faculty for their unparalleled mentorship in my success as a dance studies scholar. Their guidance and support was integral to shaping my confidence as a choreographer and performer. The strength of the UH dance program is also its strong and supportive community. The experiences I had at UH Manoa continue to impact the research I'm doing at Ohio State. My experiences as a UH student shaped my worldview of dance profoundly as I was able to learn about and experience a variety of dance forms that you don't learn about in dance programs on the mainland.

Letter Body:

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

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

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

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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: Rohini Acharya

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address City: 2346 East Ave  
State / Province: OH  
Country: United States

Name Matthew Chang

Email tuzisheng@gmail.com

Phone Number (415) 6861986

Date 09-17-2020



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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The Arts are needed at UH and it is one of the few places in the World where you can view Asian Theatre performances translated into English. Which really embodies the essence of Hawaii's culture which is the blending of cultures and the collaboration in bringing together of people to celebrate those cultures, This art builds bridges of communication and understanding with people of all ethnicities and propagates unity for the world. It would be a shame to let that die!

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: Matthew Chang

I am a UH Manoa: Alumni

Address Name Krsitina Togafau

Email krtogafa@hawaii.edu

Date 10-02-2020

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  
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Signature

Name: Kristina Togafau

I am a UH Manoa: Student

Address Country: United States

Anahola Kaua'i

9/30/20

Aloha kākou

My name is Christine Anne Cook, although I use my Hawaiian name Maui Ola. I received an MFA from UH Mānoa in Dance in 1986.

Grad school was amazing, the teachers, the opportunities, the dancing, the guest artists, the concerts. I got to work with amazing professional dancers who came as invited choreographers and taught master classes and created dances for our concerts at Kennedy Theater. I studied improv and dance therapy with Harriet Glass, ethnomusicology with Dr. Barbara Smith, and hula with Noenoe Zuttermeister and Ed Kalahiki. My main interest was modern dance and I had the highest caliber of teachers like Phyliss Haskell, Peggy Gaither and Carl Wolz just to name a few.

When I got out of grad school I vowed that I would only work in dance. I took jobs in mental institutions, lots of old folks homes as well as preschools and basically anywhere I could get people dancing. I became part of the Hawai'i State Dance Council and began a long and extremely enjoyable career in teaching creative dance in the schools.

Through this program I taught all over O'ahu and went to Maui to help train the dancers there to become teachers of creative dance.

When I moved to Kaua'i in 1986 I began teaching in schools over here. I have been steadily teaching creative dance in schools until now 2020. I am 71 and so very grateful to be able to continue to do what I love. This morning I taught a 2nd grade class about pollinators. The teacher and students were thrilled to have the opportunity to dance about what they were learning in science.

Yesterday I taught a 5th grade class about geography. More smiles and delight from the teacher and students. This has been such a rewarding career.

I began to teach Professional Development (PD) workshops to teachers. First at the MACC and then at the Kennedy Center in DC. I have been very fortunate to have received so much training from the Kennedy Center and from the very strong network of arts educators here in the islands.

In my 35 plus years of teaching I have touched the lives of thousands of Hawai'i's children. I am now teaching the children of the children I taught years ago.

And I have UH Mānoa to thank for this enriching, rewarding career. I believe my work has been a service to the community. The children I taught, who are now adults, often stop me in the street, the grocery store, at the beach to thank me for making such a big impact on their lives. Big strong local men tell me creative dance taught them how to live, how to speak and how to be a good person!

I tell you all this to ask with sincerity and passion that you reconsider your idea about cutting out this important program so vital to the well being of our community. As in education we focus on teaching the whole child so a

University should focus on educating the community in all aspects of life. A life without the arts would be a sad and dreary one indeed. Please count me in as a strong vote of opposition to the cutting of the Dance program at UH.

Mauli Ola Cook

(aka Christine Anne Cook)

Mauliola3@gmail.com

8086528173

PO 326 Kiluea

Hawaii 96754

October 6, 2020

TO: David Lassner,  
President University of Hawaii

FROM: Vivien Lee (UHM BA '75, MFA '84)

RE: Proposed changes to UH-Manoa

I am the product of Hawaii public schools: Lincoln Elementary, Stevenson Intermediate, Roosevelt High School, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (twice). My first UHM degree was in Women's Studies, through the Liberal Studies Program. My second UHM degree was an MFA in Dance.

I am writing in response to the draft proposal to eliminate the UHM Dance degree programs and to offer only a Dance minor. This would be a terrible loss for the state of Hawaii and would provide scant relief from the budget shortfall.

Our state and nation face enormous challenges: the climate crisis, increased economic inequality, unabated racism and sexism, gun violence, and of course, post-pandemic budget cuts. When we are faced with existential threats, we need critical and creative thinkers who can imagine solutions, i.e. we need artists and the arts.

Thanks to my MFA in Dance, arts education has been the core of a rewarding professional life. While in the UHM Dance Program, I learned how to engage children in the creative process through dance. In Creative Dance children are asked to explore the infinite ways to answer movement questions, e.g. how many different ways can you sit? how many different ways can your body movement express the verb "open"? how can you travel from Point A to Point B slowly, and close to the floor? Children learn that there is more than one right answer to the question. They learn to keep looking for more answers and not to be satisfied with the first easy answer that comes to mind.

They learn to value other people's choices which may be different from theirs. These are valuable lessons for students in a democratic society to learn.

Through Creative Dance children also practice working together, e.g. how can you and your partner stay physically connected while traveling backwards? gently position your partner into a frozen body shape that is twisted and bent. And children understand that the body can communicate ideas, e.g. can your group of four together make a frozen statue that represents the idea of "freedom"?..... make a moving "recycling machine"?

I believe that Creative Dance develops creative and critical thinkers who can collaborate and communicate effectively, all considered to be essential in the 21st Century.



I, and several alumni from that time, have gone on to teach Creative Dance to thousands of Hawaii children over the last 35 years. We have been Teaching Artists in the Artists in the Schools Program, led innumerable professional development courses

in dance for classroom teachers, administered statewide arts education programs, received grants, written standards-based arts curriculum for the DOE, and trained other teaching artists. The state is getting a lot of bang for its buck out of Dance graduates.

I had a bird's eye view of arts education in this state for 12 years, when I was the Arts Education Coordinator for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, a position I recently retired from. From that position, I saw how important all of the arts are to Hawaii's students. UH's core mission of education, research and service is reflected in the work of UHM Dance graduates. To be able to continue providing Hawaii's children with 21st Century **skills**, Hawaii needs professionals who are educators as well as dancers. This will not happen if only a dance minor is available.

My last thought is one about process. Reducing the budget, "transforming" the University, eliminating programs and degrees, etc. cannot be done without full discussion with all parties involved; it cannot be "top down." And it should not be based solely on numbers. I am happy to read that an "open conversation" is your goal.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. sincerely,

Vivien Lee  
47-410 Lulani St.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
leereppun@gmail.com

October 9, 2020

Dear President Lassner:

As a dancer, choreographer, professor of dance, rehearsal director, ballet master, and a concerned individual for dance in higher education I urge you and your colleagues to reconsider your intentions to abolish the highly respected Dance Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a young child, I discovered the dance at the age of 6, I graduated from the Juilliard School in 1967, I am now 75 years old. Wouldn't change my choice in life to commit to an art form that asks for little only perfection.

I had the pleasure of working with the dance program when I staged the works of the great mime, dancer, and clown Lotte Goslar in 2005. Working with the MFA students was one of the finest moments in my career. They knew how to think on their feet. They knew the honesty of putting the image across in movement.

Movement. Hawaii is all about movement. It is still growing; it is still evolving.

I ask you to think about the growth of the dance program over the past sixty years. and that which it has offered to young people who attended your university in all departments. For some a class as an elective, for many a major or minor. More importantly, it has offered the university at large the chance to see dance and to think outside of a textbook. A moment to reflect on the beauty of the mind and body in motion.

Young people who are studying dance at this moment who live in your state. Some will seek an institution of higher learning to continue their education in dance. Many will have the means to travel out of state. Many will not. At this moment, your university offers them hope. Take that hope away, movement stops for them and Hawaii.

In 1975, I was teaching at the American Dance Festival and was privileged to be in an audience to witness the extraordinary performance of the "heavenly bird" lolani Luahine. This brief encounter with this revered dancer was filled with the truth. The power of dance as an art form that combines poetry, music, and movement.

I urge you to reconsider. Keep Hawaii growing. Keep the Dance Program alive.

Yours truly,

Lance Westergard  
American Dance Guild (Treasurer)  
Board of the Dance Notation Bureau  
Board of the Martha Hill Dance Fund  
Former Director of the Dance Program at Hofstra University (Retired)

President David Lassner

Provost Michael Bruno

Having read the draft proposal regarding suggestions for Dance and Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM), I thank you for your leadership in seeking solutions to the unexpected challenges to the University of Hawai'i in the near and longer term future. Congratulations on your decisions to begin with your own salary reductions. I offer my support to help to find creative solutions for the health and success of University of Hawai'i and all its surrounding communities. The letter in the Star Advertiser on Oct. 8, 2020 from Betsy Fisher is a stellar example of the core need for the arts in human life. The UHM Dance and Theatre offerings are essential and unique to Hawai'i, its people and to the arts globally. My comments and views emanate from a Stanford University education, guest professorship at Brown University Department of Theatre and Dance, professor emerita -California State University, faculty at nationally renown -Jacobs Pillow and American Dance Festival, EMBA from Shidler, University of Hawai'i and longtime CEO of Hawai'i Arts Alliance. The unique, unmatched diversity, high quality dance education and degrees offered at UHM cannot be, nor will be, found in another location. I urgently urge and encourage you to seek every avenue to retain this jewel that has been grown and refined over the decades. Please let me know how I might be able to assist you during these extraordinary times.

Marilyn Cristofori

BA – Stanford University

MA – Theatre and Dance, California State University

MBA – University of Hawai'i

Professor Emerita, California State University, Chico

Dear Colleagues,

As a scientist you may find it odd that I and many of my colleagues are strongly supportive and passionate about the UHM dance program and the four degree programs within it: BA, BFA, MA, and MFA . The proposed stop out of Dance degrees would, in essence, utterly dismantle the Dance Program, eliminating the only dance degree available for over 2,500 miles and the only one which teaches an globally recognized essential part of the culture of Hawai'i. As you know the UHM Dance Program is within the Dept. of Theatre and Dance in which it is also proposed to stop out the MA and PhD degrees in Theatre. The Dance program also teaches courses to hundreds of non-majors who need such courses to graduate, while providing essential revenue to UH. I understand the need to reduce budgets across the university, in a fair, balanced and thoughtful manner. Unfortunately, as is widely viewed, the proposed stop outs to the Dept. of Theatre and Dance do not appear to be any of these.

Stopping out the Dance Program would mean that students currently in the degree tracks would be allowed to graduate but no new students would enter, and no new faculty hired. With no new students entering, dance courses would not make minimums and students would be directed to substitute courses in other departments which are not relevant, useful, or interesting to students, and which would most surely lead to a lack of interest in and support for UHM, not to mention other unforeseen consequences. Students would not get the educations they signed up for. They also are worried that their degrees would not be valuable from a stopped out program.

UHM Dance graduates populate K-12 dance teaching positions throughout the state and well beyond, they teach dance in the private schools, run and teach in many small businesses—dance schools and hula halau, major tourism entertainment industry destinations and Hawai'i based touring companies that are vital to the economy of Hawai'i. UH is a university, but not without the unique cultural and arts programs that are part of it and that have and will again greatly contribute to the economy of Hawai'i.

UHM Dance offers a long list of Dance courses that train many of the cultural ambassadors and performers who present large, well-liked and supported attractions to locals and visitors alike. The tourism economy will grow again, but not without the talent developed in the UHM Dance program to present the unique and vibrant culture and arts that are essential to our economy and it's resurgence post-pandemic.

I urge you to think about the long term and the big picture, and the economic damage that will be inflicted if the decision is made to stop out the UHM Dance program.

Aloha,

Lawrence V. Basch, Ph.D.

October 11, 2020

Dear President Lassner,

When I heard the news that the UH degree programs in dance were going to be eliminated because of financial constraints in this difficult time, it was hard to believe. Throughout my 28 years as a dance administrator, I was keenly aware of the distinctive nature of the UH dance program, shaped by its cultural, ethnic, and geographic environment. It would be a serious blow

to the rich tapestry of dance in higher education to lose this unique multi-cultural interdisciplinary program located in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

I first became aware of the UH dance program in the mid 1970s, when as a fledgling dance department head at the University of Illinois, I was invited to join the Council of Dance Administrators, a small group of leaders from established dance programs who met annually to share experiences, learn from one another, and guide the future of dance as an autonomous discipline in academe. Carol Wolz, director of the UH dance program at the time, was a member of CODA. A Juilliard graduate with a master's degree from UH in Pacific and Asian studies, he possessed the unique sensibilities and vision to develop a program that included European and American concert dance along with the indigenous dances of Asia and the Pacific. He was instrumental in building bridges between the East and the West through the organization of dance festivals in Hong Kong, including the international festival there in 1990, which I and many colleagues from the U.S. had the pleasure of attending. This festival led to the establishment of the World Dance Alliance.

I had the opportunity to visit the UH dance program in the early 1980s as a reviewer for the National Association of Schools of Dance. The breadth of curricular offerings, the strong dance ethnology and world dance/music component and the ethnic diversity of the student body and faculty were distinct strengths of the program. The hula classes, taught by indigenous members of the Honolulu community were especially memorable. I had never seen this beautifully expressive art form performed live with indigenous musicians. The packed class appeared to include members of the community as well as university students, and I sensed their deep shared enjoyment.

I experienced the therapeutic power of the hula earlier this year when a friend who has been a long-time resident of Honolulu sent me a video of the memorial service for her recently-deceased husband, a Hawaiian native. An intergenerational community of women, including my friend,

performed hula as an integral part of the service. I was moved by their deep involvement in the dancing and their sensitivity to one another. The dance was the embodiment of the gentle spirit and beauty of the island, a balm for all present with the power to relieve stress and engender community—so important in today’s world. I could feel myself breathing deeper.

Betsy, it was heartening to hear that you and the dance faculty are committed to re-imagining the curriculum and exploring new funding initiatives to strengthen the indigenous dance and technology components of the program. Your three-tiered plan which includes development of the indigenous dance component and a course in critical race theory; advanced technology; and environmental sustainability is timely and visionary; and you are building on the unique history, nature and resources of UH and the community.

The power of the arts to inspire, heal, bring joy, educate and enforce our interconnectedness has never been more evident than in the kinds of creative sharing and visionary thinking happening in the midst of this global crisis. We are learning to be more resilient than we ever imagined. May the limitations imposed by the current state of affairs inspire a new collective vision to sustain the dance program at UH and allow it to flourish.

My best wishes to you,  
Pat Knowles  
Professor Emerita, University of Illinois

**Dance Department**

University of Wisconsin–Madison 1050 University Avenue Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
608-262-1691 [www.dance.wisc.edu](http://www.dance.wisc.edu)

Dear President Lassner,

As the faculty of the home of dance in higher education, we are writing to emphatically support the Dance Program within the Department of Theatre and Dance at University of Hawai’i at Manoa and to urge you to not eliminate the program. In 1926, Margaret H’Doubler, a student of John Dewey and a leader in the Progressive Education movement, established the first undergraduate dance degree in the world in our historic building in

Madison, WI, Lathrop Hall, with the understanding that the study of dance is a worthy and holistic preparation for a successful and fulfilling life. For the past century, Margaret H'Doubler's bold, innovative ideas about higher education and the importance of dance pedagogy in the development of healthy individuals and communities, have spread across the globe. Your dance program, also situated in a large, public institution, is an integral part of this legacy of dance in higher education; the elimination of the program would be short-sighted and negligent.

The arts are an essential part of any college or university. They contribute a sense of vitality, interdisciplinarity, community, and creative inquiry not commonly matched in other disciplines. An ample body of research shows that students who study the arts are better prepared to be leaders, team players, and innovators in all fields. Dance offers a uniquely embodied approach, bridging the arts with mental and physical health. All the arts are inextricable in our society, but—let's be clear—the marginalization of dance in higher education is no secret. Are we so deeply cut off from our bodies, suspicious of oral tradition, and still beholden to implicit biases against women that we allow ourselves to prioritize one art form over the other?

Dance students learn a myriad of transferable skills, including problem-solving, collaboration, creativity, self-awareness, and resilience, in addition to the many physical benefits resulting from regular, reflective movement practice. Situated strategically between Asia and the US continent, the specific contributions of your university's dance program on a global scale are unique. For decades, students have been drawn from all over the world to study dance at the University of Hawai'i because of an invaluable cultural diversity and breadth of offerings, including dance traditions from the Asia-Pacific to the contemporary. Hawai'i's own esteemed kumu hula (master teachers of hula), modern dance masters including Betty Jones & Fritz Ludin (Humphrey/Limon techniques), and a lively diversity of contemporary companies, including the Iona Pear Butoh company and the Kikunobu Dance Company (Japanese dance forms), have all been a part of dance at Hawai'i.

A campus without dance, specifically a flagship, without dance, is a sad, lifeless, and disembodied campus. A state without a dance major is a tragedy. Every one of your students deserves the benefits of rigorous, corporeal inquiry offered by a robust dance program. In this time of global crisis, we have received clear feedback from our students and have observed through our own teaching that the practice and performance of dance - remote, hybrid or face2face - answers their need for community, communication, and the opportunity to creatively experience their own bodies moving in a rooted way in their own environment. The study of dance is meeting their deep hunger for coherent strategies to obtain and sustain the balance of their physical, psychological well-being. We beg you to give this matter the weighty consideration it warrants. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any more information or context.

Cordially,

Andrea Harris, PhD, GL-CMA  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Dance Department  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
andrea.harris@wisc.edu  
608-772-4324

Dear President Lassner,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the possibility of the Dance Department at UHM being eliminated. Artists from all over the US, and indeed the world, are in support of this special, unique and important dance program.

As a touring artist for more than forty years, I have had the fortunate and invigorating experience to collaborate and be in residence at UHM Dance several times, from the 1980's to 2011. In fact, in 2011 I was in residence to re-stage a major dance work of Murray Louis' that had received national support and recognition from the National Endowment for The Arts "American Masterpieces" Grant program, which faculty member and Chair Elizabeth Fisher had secured for UHM Dance. Engaging with the dancers, faculty members and the university was a great pleasure and the dance students did a beautiful job with this historic material expressing great reverence for the opportunity. In the '80's, I toured there as a dancer in the Murray Louis Dance Company, and later was a Guest Artist teaching and performing my own work for the department and the school. Personally, I gained great insight into the culture and traditions of the Hawaiian islands and soon after employed two dancers from the islands in my dance company for many years afterwards. Both of these male dancers have had major, international careers in Dance for decades.

UHM Dance offers a unique perspective, point of view, and opportunities in areas of study that *no other program in the country offers*. To be able to engage with and study everything from Contemporary Dance to Hula, Japanese, Chinese, Hip Hop, Ballet, and Ballroom forms, as well as creative compositional practices and social and theoretical issues, is unprecedented and in today's world, both inside and outside the art world, is part of an essential learning experience. UHM Dance offers all this and more in terms of its scope and reach.

I fully support the efforts to maintain this wonderful, special department. Imagining that it might not exist is indeed a sad and awful prospect.

Please feel free to contact me if you'd like any other information.

Best wishes,  
Janis Brenner

cc. UHM

[www.janisbrenner.com](http://www.janisbrenner.com)





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## [FIGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS]

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Dianne Deauna <jdldeauna@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 6:52 AM

To: International Student Services <issmanoa@hawaii.edu>, bkudo@hawaii.edu, krystyna@hawaii.edu, lelyons@hawaii.edu, provost@hawaii.edu, david@hawaii.edu, bor@hawaii.edu, bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear ISS, Dean Aune, Vice Chancellor Lyons, President Lassner, Regent Kudo, and Provost Bruno,

On September 25, 2020, the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Bureau (ICE) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [Proposed Rule](#) document entitled: ***Establishing a fixed time period of admission and an extension of stay procedure for nonimmigrant academic students, exchange visitors, and representatives of foreign information media.*** The proposal contains regulations that will be severely restricting to international students who wish to study in the US:

1. It eliminates the "Duration of Status" currently applicable to international students, wherein they are granted visa status as long as they are enrolled in a university, and until the completion of their degrees. Once implemented, the ruling will grant new F or J visas valid only for a maximum of 4 years. Students who need more time to graduate will be required to apply for extension of stays with Citizenship and Immigration Services, with the only acceptable reasons being: "a) compelling academic reasons; b) a documented illness or medical condition; and c) exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the alien". Providing proof of these conditions would represent an unfair additional burden particularly on graduate students.
2. Several countries will become limited to visas valid only for a maximum of 2 years, including those that are currently well-represented in the University of Hawaii System's student body.

This is not a full list of the restrictions described in the document, and a more exhaustive summary can be found [here](#). I call on the Board to issue a formal comment representing the University of Hawaii system, through a [public portal](#) which accepts comments until **October 26, 2020**. For guidance, a talking points template for issuing a forceful statement can be found [here](#).

It is unacceptable that this proposed ruling has **not garnered a response from the administration**, as this act is just the latest attempt by ICE to target international students in the US. On the prohibitive SEVP guidance issued by DHS last summer, UH System President David Lassner wrote a letter last July 9th entitled *Protecting our UH International Students:*

*We view the new guidelines as unfair, harmful and inappropriate in the unpredictable situation we all face during this COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The federal government's new guidance has created unnecessary fear and uncertainty for international students on our UH campuses and across the nation.*

*Our first and highest priority right now is to ensure we can enable all our international students to continue their UH education in Hawai'i. There were nearly 2,400 undergraduate and graduate international students enrolled at UH's 10 campuses in fall 2019. They have long been vital members of the UH 'ohana, and we embrace our commitments to support their education here.*

*...Our experience is that this type of situation can be quite dynamic, which adds to the uncertainty. We are working with our congressional delegation and professional associations to attempt to correct these guidelines.*

It is obvious that the President, and by extension the Board, recognizes the importance of international students to the UH System. I call on them to actively fight against these proposed restrictions using every means available to them as they have done before, and to uphold their commitment to protecting the rights of international students.

Sincerely,

Dianne Deauna