Hawaii Community College Construction Academy Testimony

russell rapoza <russrap@hotmail.com>
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Please see attached

Any questions or issues, please contact me at (808) 895-1904

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

testimony.docx
13K
Hello my name is Russell Rapoza and I am a High School teacher at Keaau High School on the Island of Hawaii. This is my 29th year teaching in the public school system and last year I was named Kea’au/Ka’u/Pahoa district teacher of the year as well as a runner up to the state of Hawaii teacher of the year for 2020. 13 years ago governor Lingle in an effort to create a better labor force went away from cottage industry/basic practical arts instruction to a more industry need driven curriculum. At this time we partnered with the Hawaii Community College and developed the Construction Academy. We tailored our curriculum to be aligned with the College level instruction that directly fed into the construction industry. In my opinion, this has been a very successful partnership with an increase of students developing skills for industry through the Community College System. We have had students who would traditionally not look to attend college, end up feeding multiple programs (Construction, Electrical Installation, Architectural Engineering, Welding, etc.) within the Hawaii Community College system prior to heading into industry.

I feel this partnership between Kea’au High School and the Hawaii Community College Construction Academy has been paramount to the success of our students as well as a large component on my nomination for teacher of the year. The post secondary element within our program of study has elevated our nominal high school course to a higher achieving level and aid in a smoother transition for students to attend the Hawaii Community College.

Future plans on our school redesign include the ongoing partnership with the Hawaii Community College. We are currently creating an advisory board that include representation from the college, community, industry, and affiliated partner groups such as Habitat for Humanity. This board will help develop a path for our students to begin their industry training and skill development through high school instruction, then future enhance their knowledge and skill set within the Hawaii Community College’s curriculum. Achieving this, our students will be ready to enter into industry having highly trained skills and certifications to offer to our demanding industry.

A partnership program in this fashion will bolster the building our community’s economy by supplying the industry with local, non-imported, highly trained and industry certified labor. If you ask large industry employers where they are obtaining their skilled labor, most will state that they had to import them from the mainland. Why? We have a vast labor pool here in Hawaii, but we need to develop an educational path for our students to get trained to enter into this labor market. At this time the Unions are recruiting high school students to help alleviate the shortage, however without proper training and education these students will never ascend to higher paying jobs. Short term solution, but does not address the long term problem. We desperately need the continued and perhaps expanded involvement of the Hawaii Community College to develop more local skilled labor force.

Whenever I read reports on the economy and how our elected officials plan to revitalize the economy, the budget always includes utilizing construction projects to help aid in the recovery. However great this may sound, the reality is that if the labor is imported from the mainland, the money invested and projected to trickle down to other businesses will not occur and our tax base will not be able to be sustained. What I mean is that with local labor, their paychecks will remain within the community further spurring economic growth and building your tax based for future development and creation of
more job. Importing your labor will ultimately shrink your tax base by exporting their paychecks to their home state.

I will close by stating that it is imperative that we develop a local, highly skilled labor force for the future of our community and economy, this will lead to further development and more career opportunities for our students. Hawaii Community College Construction Academy is an integral part in making this goal a reality. We need continued support of this program to move both our educational and economical goals forward for the Island of Hawaii. Thank you

Russell A.S. Rapoza
Kea’au High School Construction Academy teacher
2020 KKP district Teacher of the Year
Hawaii Community College plays a key role in our local economy by recognizing our Island’s workforce needs and building programs to support them.

Hawaii Island relies on a fleet of commercial trucks to deliver goods and services in an efficient and safe manner around the island. However, there is a chronic shortage of drivers with the skills and CDL licensing required to operate large commercial trucks on Hawaii Island.
HCC responded by creating a CDL training program. The program provides an opportunity for students to learn the skills required to be a commercial truck driver. The school employs a high-tech truck simulator, to teach students how to operate a truck in a realistic, but safe and controlled environment.

At Suisan, we have hired graduates of the CDL training program, so we know the program works. Driving is a good career. We employ twenty CDL drivers, and half of them have over 20 years of service with Suisan.

Unfortunately, the CDL training program came to a halt due to the pandemic. We hope that HCC will receive the funding and support needed to resume this program as it will lead to good careers and insure the efficient and safe delivery of goods and services to our community.

Aloha,

Stephen Ueda  
President and CEO  
Suisan Company, Ltd.
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April 14, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John Casken, Chair of the Council on Study Abroad Nursing and Dental Hygiene
   Phillip Ooi, Vice-Chair of the Council on Study Abroad, Engineering
   Veronica Bindi, Physics and Astronomy
   Louis Bosquet, LLEA-French
   Alison Conner, Law
   Petrice Flowers, Political Science;
   Manu Ka’iama, Shilder
   Mimi Sharma, Asian Studies (ret)
   Mark Wright, CTAHR

SUBJECT: Testimony Against the place of the UHM Study Abroad Center within Global Engagement

The administration has been provided with feedback on the Phase 2 reorganization. The Manoa Faculty Senate, UHPA, and HGEA have opposed the reorganization as well. The administration states that “While we are disappointed with the Manoa Faculty Senate Committee on Administration and Budget, we acknowledge their perceptions and concerns..... In addition, HGEA and UHPA did not concur with the reorganization proposal and we believe largely based on input and concerns from individual members about changes that may impact them....”. (page 6, April 9 memo to BOR Chair Kudo). This is explanation is insulting and dismissive of all that we work toward a common goal of making this University excellent.

We realize the Re-organization plan has to deal with many concerns. But in this post-COVID-19 world, perhaps of most critical importance to UHM and to the State is that this mission to reorganize UHM should be seen as the opportunity to enhance, encourage and strengthen UHM’s key output – academic excellence.

First, the members of the Council would like to address the current placement of the Study Abroad Center within the purview of the Office of Global Engagement, which in turn is under the Provost’s Office. Functionally, the Study Abroad Center is best supported under Academic Excellence. We have argued for this placement multiple times and yet Phase 2 of the reorganization does not reflect our input. Even though the Study Abroad programs are offered
overseas, inherently they are academic and under the purview of the faculty who designs the curriculum, who conducts their own research overseas and who mentors students. Students in these programs fulfill Manoa degree requirements and are able to graduate within four or even fewer years. While, we recognize that Study Abroad is linked to Global Engagement, the Academic functions of the Center are better supported in Academic Excellence and thus we ask that it be placed where it is best supported.

Most recently the President’s office noted that UHM has been ranked highly in worldwide ratings – often beating out our peer and benchmark competitor universities. Three of the most prestigious internationally are the 2020 Times Higher Education World University ranking, the 2020 U.K.-based Quacquarelli Symons (QC) World University Rankings by Subjects and the Ranch University World Rankings. We achieve that status not by the beauty of our islands but by UHM’s outstanding teaching and research. Essentially, we see UHM as a “factory” and our output is our academic excellence.

We reviewed the Manoa Reorganization Phase 2 Update as a Study Abroad Council, and Phase 2 makes UHM Global Engagement as an administrative, regulatory and repository of international agreements. Most notably the Senior Administrator does not have an academic/research portfolio and oversees five disparate offices that have functions and missions that are widely different. Again, the Study Abroad Center is best supported in Academic Excellence because of its curriculum, teaching, and student engagement.

Among the original objectives of the Re-organization was “Enhance and Strengthen Manoa’s role as a premier Asia-pacific focused global “R1” research university.” What you have before you is that the functionality of global academic excellence is lost in the current set up that to us seems to revert back to form taking precedence over function.

Thank you,
Study Abroad Council Members
Facility Concerns Regarding Consultation - Phase II Reorganization

Justin Clapp <jtclapp@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha BOR,

Please accept this (attached) testimony from members of the Committee on Administration and Budget (CAB) from the Mānoa Faculty Senate regarding the inadequate consultation process.

Thank you,

Justin Clapp
--
Justin Clapp
Academic Advisor
Student-Athlete Academic Services
The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

PhasellTestimony_CAB_ConsultationConcerns.pdf
57K
Dear Chair Kudo and Regents,

Members of the Committee on Administration and Budget (CAB) from the Mānoa Faculty Senate (MFS) submit this testimony representing our understanding of the faculty’s perspective of the Phase II Reorganization of the Manoa Management Structure.

CAB, and the full MFS, have pointed out extensive, ongoing concerns regarding consultation between UH Mānoa administration and faculty through MFS Resolutions submitted to the BOR, especially recently concerning the Phase I Reorganization (February 20, 2019), Online and Distance Credit Programs (May 13, 2020), Censure of the President/CEO and Provost for failure to conduct meaningful consultation in the reorganization process (October 21, 2020; November 18, 2020), and the Phase II Reorganization (March 24, 2021). In fact, concerns regarding consultation with faculty traces back to at least September 17, 2014, when the MFS censured President Lassner for failure to consult.

CAB will highlight two additional circumstances that embody the inadequate consultation process. First, First Year Programs (FYP) contacted CAB while we were in the process of finalizing the Phase II Resolution. FYP notified CAB that they had serious concerns about being placed within Student Success (hereafter “Student Affairs”), instead of Academic Excellence (hereafter “Academic Affairs”). FYP notes that best practices nation-wide for such an office, whose work is inherently academic, is within Academic Affairs: an approach that the California State University employs. That being said, there may be a counter-argument that placing FYP within Student Affairs is in the best interest of students, faculty, and the University; however, First Year Programs (FYP) was never afforded an opportunity to consult on its placement after the release of the Phase II documents, or after the MFS Resolution concerning Phase II, which specifically mentioned FYP.

Second, to provide one specific point of concern as a microcosm of the consultation process: There very well may be (an) important reason(s) why Advising should be placed within Student Affairs and how such placement is in the best interest of students, faculty, and the University, even if such placement is overwhelming opposed from Advisors; however, the fact that the Advisors provided requested evidence and objective reasons for why Advising should be placed within Academic Affairs (notably, that it would reduce reporting lines for Advising from 3 to 2), and then UH Mānoa administration did not engage with those reasons, nor present objective facts supporting Advising’s placement within Student Affairs, makes the decision seem arbitrary. Additionally, the response to Advising’s documentation is written in such an ambiguous nature that Advising still remains unsure regarding the exact structure that may be implemented with the approval of Phase II.

Thank you for accepting this testimony,

Signed, Members of CAB

Roy Gal  Ashley Maynard  Robert Paull  Edo Biagioni
Erik Guentner  Colin Moore  Ann Sakaguchi  Alex Stokes
William Uspal  Justin Clapp
**Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents**

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<th>Audrey Takamine</th>
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<td><strong>Your Organization (optional)</strong></td>
<td>Takamine Construction, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) ***</td>
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| **Your Testimony/Comments**        | Aloha,
My name is Audrey Takamine, Vice President of Takamine Constuction, a general contracting company based in Hilo. My husband Craig and I started the business in 2003. Craig is a proud graduate of the Hawaii Community College Carpentry Program class of 1995. Since being in business, we have hired many carpentry graduates. In fact, most of our employees are from the HawCC Carpentry program. Upon graduating from the program, we noticed the students are well prepared for the workforce. The Model Home Project which |
was established in 1965, gives the students hands on experience on building a home from ground up. This project is something that not only benefits the student, but benefits a deserving family. The students have the opportunity to apply the techniques they learned in the classroom and put it to use on the jobsite. Hawaii Community College is a great asset to our community and we truly appreciate all of the hard work and dedication they are doing to educate the next generation.

Mahalo for your time.

Thank you,

Audrey Takamine  
Takamine Construction, Inc.  
1266 Kamehameha Avenue, Suite C  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 961-9090
Please see the attached scanned letter of support from Keaau High School Principal Cevallos.

Mahalo,

Grant Ka'au'a

Hawai'i Community College
Construction Academy Coordinator
Associate Professor

Cevallos Letter.pdf
262K
03/29/2021

I am Dean Cevallos, Principal at Kea’au High School.

I am writing this letter in support of our continued partnership we have with HCC. I have seen this partnership grow over the past 10 years I have been here as Principal. This Partnership was here prior to me and has helped our students with entry into HCC and earn credits while still going to school. It has also allowed our students projects the school, itself, could not have given them without HCC’s assistance. With our schools now moving to the pathways schools we will need the Partnership even more. We are putting together boards to help guide us in the curriculum we offer. We would be grateful to have a representative on our board from the college. This will better support what the college would like to see of our students coming your way. Kea’au High School is blessed to have certified teachers both in the DOE and in their career pathways. We need to make sure this pipeline continues to happen and even become stronger. I hope you will take this into consideration as we move forward in these trying times. If you need anymore information or have questions please do not hesitate to either call me at (808) 313-3322 or email me at dean.cevallos@k12.hi.us.

Sincerely,

Dean Cevallos, Principal
Kea’au High School
Support for Construction Academy

Sheila Dagarag <sheila.dagarag@k12.hi.us>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha,

Below is a link to my testimony in support of the construction academy.
Letter of support for Construction Academy

--
Sheila Ann Dagarag
East Hawaii CTE DRT
16-586 Keaau-Pahoa Rd
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
808-982-4722 (office)
808-230-3883 (cell)

This is a staff email account managed by Hawaii Department Of Education School District. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender.
April 13, 2021

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for the Hawai‘i Community College’s Construction Academy Program. Schools that are in collaboration with HawCC have shown an increase in student attendance and participation as well as success within the construction industry.

Three of the five high schools that make up the East Hawaii have had the opportunity to work with these instructors:

- Kau Keaau Pahoa Complex area has been home to Grant Kaaua at Keaau High and Chris Midel at Pahoa High.
- Hilo Waiakea Complex has been home to Kent Grace at Waiakea High.
- Kau High and Hilo High have since tried to reconnect with the community college to bring the program back to their schools and the opportunity to receive supports from the community college instructor. We hope to have this in place at these schools soon.

Through this partnerships:

- Many projects have been initiated, carried out and completed at these schools through the guidance and collaboration of the community college instructor and the classroom teacher.
- Pahoa high has been able to continue their program with integrity even with the absence of an actual Building and Construction instructor in place, this allows the students to keep on learning in the absence of a DOE instructor.
- Keaau High is the first school on the Big Island to issue OSHA 10 construction safety cards. When there is a pairing of instructors such as Keaau, the possibilities become more achievable.
- Waiakea High maintains the large program for IET, which allows for increased rigor in curriculum and hands-on activities in the labs.
- HawaiiCC instructors and DOE currently work on initiatives to create dual credit opportunities in alignment with the new CTE Pathways.

This letter could continue to list the many opportunities that our schools have had through this partnership, but I will leave you with this. The program is important to our students and our students are worth it.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to ask for clarifications.

Mahalo,
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) *
Jessica Hamad

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *
jessicahamad@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *
BOR VII.B. Final Report and Dissolution of the COVID-19 Strategic Response and Economic Recovery Permitted Interaction Group and Approval of Resolution Requesting a Comprehensive Plan to Achieve a Reimagined University of Hawaii

Your Position (required) *
Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Hi,
I am a current student at Hawaii CC. I testified in 2020 Nov about a few ethical concerns I had with some decisions that were made at UH Hilo hiring during the pandemic and possibly approved by President Lasser. I asked a few questions and I wanted to follow up to see if anything was investigated? I’m curious to see what the purpose is for this public comment area and what needs to be presented or done to receive a report back to the public on issues and concerns that are important to them? Is it better to go to the legislature for issue or our local congressional reps if we have questions on UH? I thought making a comment at the board of regents would result in some sort of follow up back but I dont think my questions or other questions from other testifiers were answered.
It feels as though, UH Lasser and BOR have an agenda and no matter what, their plan gets approved regardless of what others want or testify. Do you all look seriously at the testimony. You do realize many don't testify as they don't want to be targets of retaliation. That doesn't mean others feel the same way. I don't think leaders are put in place to be sole decision makers, but to be servants to the people they are representing. My understanding is the board of regents are suppose to ensure and look over the decisions of the University and ensure it is best for the community and residents of the state of Hawaii. BOR should be asking questions and really reviewing all testimony. Delaying decisions is not a bad idea if complete, clear, understanding of the vision is not explainable and both sides pros and cons are not clear, to the people that are opposing it.

My question is, if student success is so important to the colleges, then why did UH Hilo not address the issue about the aquaponics program? There were students that sent in a signed petition. If the state of Hawaii is investing all this money into sustainability and food security, why would you close this program Dec 2020? If furloughs and salary cuts are preferred to layoffs, and Governor Ige seems very proud about avoiding layoffs, then why would UH Hilo layoff 3 students and the faculty running that program, yet hire an admin or multiple admins during a hiring freeze? I believe the only regent that opposed the vote to reinstate salaries was Sullivan. Do you all know there were faculty that got laid off? and threats to be laid off? I would be willing to take salary cut if it saved other families. . .and true leaders would just do it or find a way to do it.

I don't see any response to concerns and what I do see is Lasser presenting to the Legislature earlier this year, saying something like the community is looking to UH to give them the vision. From the testimonys I've seen, there are a lot of very smart faculty willing to spend their time, for free, being involved in the planning, but it seems admin wants all the control and decision making. Administrators are the farthest from the students, so would be least likely to know what students want. Students talk to faculty, not admins. We need less admins and more faculty with more authority. I read David Ross' testimony and it is disturbing to me that the educational organization would use the pandemic and an opportunity. . .it's like business' using the legal "restructure" as a way to layoff people they can't get rid of.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached