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## Written Testimony for 03-18-22 SPECIAL BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

1 message

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**Matthew K Lynch** <mklynch@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 8:00 AM

Aloha Esteemed Regents,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on today's agenda concerning the mission, vision and role(s) of the University of Hawai'i in light of the uncertain futures that our students are inheriting. In regards to agenda item (F) "Are the Mission and Vision of the University of Hawaii the UH Mission and Vision still responsive to today's world?", may I respectfully draw the Board's attention to Dominique Peña, UH Mānoa College of Engineering Outstanding Senior, Award Acceptance speech, Dec, 2020 (highlighted in my [2021 report to the BOR "Higher Education must Refocus on Relevance and Resonance to Students' Climate Futures"](#)):

*"It is concerning that our higher education institution remains short on stressing and teaching about the issues that are relevant to our times; specifically our generation's times. For example, the immense lack of climate change urgency addressed by our department, despite students' concerns - it still does not seem to cease to amaze me."*  
- Dominique Peña, UH Mānoa College of Engineering Outstanding Senior, Award Acceptance speech, Dec, 2020

In response, may I respectfully suggest that the BOR reconsider the University of Hawai'i's Mission & Vision within the context of our roles & responsibilities to a larger vision for our students and the communities we serve during these transformative times? For example:

***We envision a contemporary society in Hawai'i in which all residents are deeply connected to the islands which care for us, so that we are in an active & reciprocal relationship caring for the islands, so that the islands can continue to care for us.***

***We envision an economy in Hawai'i in which policymakers & decision-makers are centering decisions around the health of our peoples and our ecosystems, and in which all residents are able to prosper while engaging in meaningful work.***

***We envision a university which equips its students and the communities it serves with the skills, experiences and knowledge to thrive & flourish in reciprocal relationships with the peoples and places that they live within.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,  
Matthew K Lynch

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Matthew Kamakani Lynch  
Director of Sustainability Initiatives  
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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII  
OFFICE of SUSTAINABILITY

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[hawaii.edu/sustainability](https://hawaii.edu/sustainability) | [UH LEED Buildings](#) | [UH Energy Dashboard](#)

Design Team Member: UH Mānoa [Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Center](#)

(2021 BOR Report) [Higher Education must Refocus on Relevance and Resonance to Students' Climate Futures](#)

(2019 BOR Report) [Higher Education Must Teach to the Issues of our Times to Remain Relevant](#)

(VIDEO) [Sustainability & Resilience at University of Hawai'i](#)

(VIDEO) [Climate Justice and Racial Healing](#)

Notes From the Field: [Teaching Climate Change](#)

## 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) \*

Von Kenric Kaneshiro

Your Organization (optional)

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

von\_kaneshiro@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

3/18 BOR III.E. Are the UH Mission and Vision still responsive to today's world?

Your Position (required) \*

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

I respectfully thank the Board of Regents for the opportunity to comment. It is to the Board or Regents that I direct my attention because the primary reason we elect them is for their taking a thought leadership role in setting the direction of the University system. You set the tone. My question to the board is, "What is vision and identity that that Board wants to set for the U.H. System?" I follow that with another question: "What strategic priorities are the Board setting to align with said identity?"

Beyond the primary duality of research and teaching, the secondary goals are the mission of the University of Hawaii system as a member of the community, provider of (ideal) human capital, support of the evolving socioeconomic needs of Hawaii. Perhaps Manoa campus becomes takes on a U.C.-like role while West Oahu, Hilo, and Maui takes on a CSU-like role of teaching? Shrug. To me, online education is a delivery

method of teaching; however, in and of itself online education cannot ever replace the collegiality of the physical University and especially in research.

The state of Hawaii periodically updates its 50-year plan. How does the U.H. system's goals dovetail with the needs of the state's plan?

The University of Hawaii, Manoa, provided me with skills, knowledge, and ability to succeed and contribute in the Silicon Valley and now here in Hawaii's business community. The professors encouraged me to pursue a dream, taught me with passion, and I saw some of their then cutting-edge research. While the world's information communication medium has moved from a physical to a digital mechanism, at its core we are still teaching similar material.

The world's goals are twofold and built upon respect for the land and others:

1. Ensure we take care of the environment we live in because it is the only one we have. Compromise that and we can no longer live.
2. Evolve as people so that we stop attacking and killing each other. Hawaii's Aloha Spirit needs to truly be rekindled culturally and then expanded upon and transferred to the world.

This should be a the core of whatever we set for the University of Hawaii System.

Aloha, Inua, and e palekana,

Von Kenric Kaneshiro

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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## Actions

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## Testimony on L-T plan

1 message

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**Lloyd Lim** <lloydlim600bach@aol.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 6:38 AM

See attached below.

Lloyd Lim  
Makiki

Sent from my iPhone by Lloyd Lim. Not intended for anyone besides the named recipients. Unauthorized forwarding may result in liability, depending on the content. Nothing herein shall constitute a promise or contract.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lloyd Lim <lloydlim600bach@aol.com>  
**Date:** March 17, 2022 at 6:32:42 AM HST  
**To:** lloydlim600bach@aol.com

Sent from [Outlook](#)

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 **UHplan1.pdf**  
124K

From the Desk of Lloyd Lim, 1525 Wilder Avenue #1008, Honolulu, HI 96822

March 17, 2022

Board of Regents

University of Hawaii

Email: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Re: **Comment on long term future plans for UH**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

My work experience has taught me that people tend to be too narrowly trained. I understand the need for specialization, but some general knowledge is also needed. I think of it as an inoculation against error, a kind of broad-based risk management. And I'm not suggesting that everything under the sun needs to be taught.

Let's start with 2 examples of dopey deeds with bad consequences:

1. NY Governor Cuomo believing computer model projections about Covid-19 long before there could have been half-decent real data for the models and long before those models could be validated. He then directed Covid-19 patients in nursing homes not to be transferred to hospitals;
2. The HART rail project building so many miles of raised track before testing and verifying the ability of the train car to run on the track as designed and built, completely ignoring the rigorous, repetitive way we would design and test something new for aerospace or auto racing (as examples), and not even bothering to first nail down a good process to manage the risk of error.

A basic understanding of practical things like statistics and project management<sup>1</sup> are useful and not just for technical people, but for anyone who actually has to implement anything. And yes, bureaucrats and business managers need to know this stuff even if they personally don't get dirt under their fingernails.

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<sup>1</sup> I have a friend in project management, whose father worked in project management for the same large company. And he helped me develop a one-page checklist. Don't overcomplicate everything.

But before this can be addressed, we should recognize some thinking errors on the part of some academics:

1. The idea that it takes an entire semester and a 500-page textbook to learn something practical;
2. The idea that “a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing” means that “zero knowledge is better than a little bit.”
3. The idea that relevant knowledge is complicated. E.g. everyone should know that correlation does not equal causation. So you ask: “if I step outside and it rains, does one cause the other?” E.g. everyone should understand observation bias. So you show an alarm clock face and then turn it to show it from the side and ask: “does it look it the same?” This isn’t rocket science, but it is very important in real life.
4. The idea that smart people have complex thoughts. Nope, complexity in thinking and the inability to find your way to the key issue is not a sign of intelligence—it’s a sign of someone so lost that they might not even know that they’re lost.
5. The idea that long writing is good writing. Strunk & White rule #17: omit needless words. In the workplace, long writing is impractical. Long-windedness is annoying. You have to learn to get to the point.
6. The idea that all teaching is a Ph.D standing in front of a classroom. Not anymore. There are more efficient ways to do it if you are teaching basic, 101 knowledge. Think videotape, think paper. Get away from silos based on subject matter. Use volunteers from the community to speak on a topic or at least get input from them.
7. The idea that a student can get away unchallenged when they say “I’m a visual learner.” If you can’t read with relative adeptness, then you are a liability in most workplaces.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Best wishes for your endeavors and continuing leadership.

Sincerely,

s/ **LLOYD LIM**

Lloyd Lim



## UH Future

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**Randall Yanagi** <randalltennis49@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 8:57 AM

UH should offer programs that students now have to go away for like a school of dentistry and physical therapy.