



LATE TESTIMONY

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Your Name (required) *

Celia Bardwell-Jones

Your Organization (optional)

Humanities Division, UH Hilo

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

celiab@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

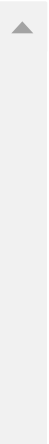
VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

To the esteemed BOR members: My name is Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones. I am a professor of Philosophy and currently serving as Division Chair for Humanities. I would like to address the biennium budget proposal specifically dealing with faculty hires to meet the state needs of addressing the shortage of health professionals, teachers, and police officers in Hawai'i. While I am in agreement with the intent of the proposal to address the lack of professionals in these fields in order to ensure our local communities flourish, I am concerned that the proposal's focus lacks a holistic approach in framing and understanding these state problems. I take the biennium proposals to guide future hiring plans in the UH System in which the higher education deliverable sought is the well trained health, law, and teaching professional. In this testimony, I would like to encourage a more thoughtful and holistic orientation in meeting the staffing shortages in our state. In the desire to produce more professionals, I am reminded of Vine Deloria Jr.'s critique of the Western education model in his book, *Power and Place: Indian Education in America* (2001) in which he claims:



“Education today trains professionals but does not produce people.” While hiring faculty is important to ensure the proper training of professionals, an approach that lacks the training of persons who will be working in these professional fields becomes one dimensional, disjointed and misses the human dimension that professionals need in order to become not only good teachers, health professionals and police officers, but also good ethically responsible citizens, persons with skills in critical thinking and creative expression that supports the whole being of the professional. In times of staffing shortages, the “practical” or “useful” disciplines are often times supported. And of course this makes sense especially if crisis thinking becomes the only way to motivate action in addressing these problems. However, we don’t have to respond to state problems in this way and the point of this testimony is to encourage the BOR to be willing to be persuaded to expand the vision of the hiring plan to include the humanities. It may not be clear how the humanities might contribute to fulfilling the state’s immediate needs. In UH Hilo, our humanities programs are valuable in the state because we value diversity, interdisciplinarity and community. Many of our programs foster skills in emotional intelligence, empathetic understanding, and critical inquiry through a variety of ways in the arts, performing arts, communication, English, Languages and Philosophy. The humanities reveal how people have tried to make moral, intellectual and spiritual sense of the world. “Soft skills” have proven to be what employers are seeking in their employees. These sets of skills include being strong critical thinkers, having the ability to write, persuade, collaborate, express genuine empathy and moral awareness. These are the skills that are essential for any professional, but clearly aligned to professions that serve people, such as teachers, health professionals and police officers.

My suggestion would be to holistically balance the hiring plan to incorporate disciplines in the Humanities, to support hires directly training the persons in these professions. It is not unusual to find experts in Bioethics, Medical communication, philosophy of education, pedagogies of performance and social justice, art education, and legal humanities. All of our humanities programs work in interdisciplinary contexts such that whatever professional is produced at UH Hilo can also be nourished in the study of humanities. In this rush to ensure we meet our staffing needs in the state, we must not overlook the opportunity to train, to educate professionals as persons who are intellectually curious, open-minded and are ultimately the future of the state.

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Susan Jarvi

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Hilo

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jarvi@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

OTHER

OTHER (Please describe) *

Comment regarding termination of faculty due to apparently fabricated work load data.

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

As a member of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at UH Hilo, I would like to comment on the termination of two top educators and researchers from our Department based on apparently fabricated work-load data^[1]. One of these terminated faculty has generated approximately \$1,000,000 in extramural funding in a very short period of time, and was the recipient of the Student Choice Award for Teaching in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the DKICP in 2018, 2019, 2020 and

2021. He was the inventor of 4 patents or patent applications, and author of over 60 peer-reviewed publications, and 4 book chapters. According to President Lassner's 2020 report, priorities at UH include increasing extramural funding with a top area of focus as Health Sciences[2]. This faculty member -in fact both faculty members- epitomized these priorities. The actions of this administration in terminating top-notch faculty based on apparently fabricated work-load data needs to come into question.

[1] See evidence submitted to Faculty Congress here:<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/congress/motions/2021-2022/documents/motions/21-22/OriginalDKICPSenateMotiononWorkloadCalculations.pdf>

And Faculty Congress-approved motion here:<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/congress/motions/2021-2022/documents/motions/21-22/21-22-012MotiontoImmediatlyProvideWorkloadCalculations.pdf>

[2]<https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/president/post-pandemic-hawaii/>

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