

*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Jason Alexander

Your Organization (optional)

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UHM

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

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jasonma@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 17, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Jason Alexander, UHM Department of Sociology PhD Candidate

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas: *You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

*To support our community, the [UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage](#) now includes [FAQs for international students](#) and [FAQs on immigration enforcement](#). There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.*

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We are glad to see an exhaustive list of resources and updates for international students to the federal updates website which were updated on the website by April 7th, before the announcement from President Hensel was released on April 11th. **Although these webpages do provide crucial, timely and relevant information, we would also like to suggest the following changes be implemented:**

1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#))
2. Have information available in the federal updates page also be available at ISS's website and vice versa (e.g., the [Alien Registration & Carrying Immigration Documents](#) info page is not available at the federal updates website)
3. Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official READ ID-compliant identification with them at all times
4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
3. Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols

- and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.
  3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
  4. UH International Student Services staff must be assigned to check the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) daily. If a student visa is revoked, UH administration should immediately alert this student.
  5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status
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  8. Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that "we are not facing this challenge alone" and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 17, 2025 at 3:30 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Blake Stoner-Osborne

Your Organization (optional)

---

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

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Blake.stonerosborne@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

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It is absolutely unacceptable that there are members of our UH community who are in danger of losing their right to education over the current administration's legislative decisions. Please support the students that are losing their visas in any way you can and please try to fight back against the current administration's moves to deny members of our community their right to education.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 8:34 AM

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Your Name (required)

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John Nighitngale

Your Organization (optional)

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

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John.nightingale97@googlemail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: John Nightingale, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Geography and Environment PhD

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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- 2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.
- 3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 8:40 AM



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Your Name (required)

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Katherine Ackerman

Your Organization (optional)

---

University of Hawaii

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

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klackerm@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Katherine Ackerman, PhD Candidate, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 8:56 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Victoria Assad

Your Organization (optional)

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

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vassad@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Victoria Assad, Graduate Student

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

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8. Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that "we are not facing this challenge alone" and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 8:59 AM

*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Olivia Meyer

Your Organization (optional)

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

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oliviadm@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Olivia Meyer, PhD Candidate, Geography and Environment

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas:

*You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*



*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

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1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#)). While students have access to NY Times, it involves a [5-step process](#) to subscribe. Many students may not be aware of this process, or, may not have the capacity to process this during urgent news updates.
2. Have information available in the federal updates page also be available at ISS's website and vice versa (e.g., the [Alien Registration & Carrying Immigration Documents](#) info page is not available at the federal updates website)
3. Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times
4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
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**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 9:28 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Gabrielle N E Stedman

Your Organization (optional)

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University of Hawaii at Manoa, Oceanography

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

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gstedman@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16th, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Gabrielle N E Stedman, graduate student, Oceanography

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 9:40 AM



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Your Name (required)

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Dianne Deauna

Your Organization (optional)

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Academic Labor United

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

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jdeauna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dianne Deauna, graduate student

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 10:06 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Nadezna Ortega

Your Organization (optional)

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

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nadezna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Nadezna Ortega (PhD Candidate, UHM Political Science Department; Instructor, UHM IPLL Department)

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

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2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.



- 3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
- 4. UH International Student Services staff must be assigned to check the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) daily. If a student visa is revoked, UH administration should immediately alert this student.
- 5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status
- 6. UH administrative leadership must commit to providing immigration support for all students subject to governmental discipline or deportation including contacts of immigration attorneys and funding to support representation. This will enable affected students to consider their myriad options thoughtfully, without the stress of financial burden (e.g., applying for reinstatement, appealing SEVIS termination, etc.). Providing the contact information of the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic and the Office of General Counsel are an important initial step, but the University must guarantee that it will support students to the best of their ability above and beyond what can be provided by legal nonprofits.
- 7. UH administrative leadership must commit to ensuring that internal grievance/complaint procedures (especially those based on Title VI) include adequate procedural safeguards. For example, affected students should not be locked out of their campus housing or prevented access to any university services or resources while being subject to an investigation.
- 8. Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 10:11 AM



*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Jade Comellas

Your Organization (optional)

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HIGP

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

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jadecomellas@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16th, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Jade Comellas, HIGP and Department of Earth Sciences (University of Hawaii at Manoa),  
Graduate Student

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas: *You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

To support our community, the [UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage](#) now includes [FAQs for international students](#) and [FAQs on immigration enforcement](#). There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.

Resources for [international student services](#) and [mental health support](#) for all students and employees can also be found on the [updates and resource webpage](#).

We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to update the site with federal policy developments and new resources.

We are glad to see an exhaustive list of resources and updates for international students to the federal updates website which were updated on the website by April 7th, before the announcement from President Hensel was released on April 11th. **Although these webpages do provide crucial, timely and relevant information, we would also like to suggest the following changes be implemented:**

1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#))
2. Have information available in the federal updates page also be available at ISS's website and vice versa (e.g., the [Alien Registration & Carrying Immigration Documents](#) info page is not available at the federal updates website)
3. Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times
4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
3. Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.

- 2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.
- 3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeysa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
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- 5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status
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We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 10:29 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Stephanie Dossett

Your Organization (optional)

---

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

---

steph23@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Stephanie Dossett, MA student and GA

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas: *You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

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*To support our community, the [UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage](#) now includes [FAQs for international students](#) and [FAQs on immigration enforcement](#). There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.*

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3. Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times
4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
3. Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.



- 3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
- 4. UH International Student Services staff must be assigned to check the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) daily. If a student visa is revoked, UH administration should immediately alert this student.
- 5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status
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- 7. UH administrative leadership must commit to ensuring that internal grievance/complaint procedures (especially those based on Title VI) include adequate procedural safeguards. For example, affected students should not be locked out of their campus housing or prevented access to any university services or resources while being subject to an investigation.
- 8. Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 11:23 AM



*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Amy Markel

Your Organization (optional)

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

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amarkel@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Amy Markel, P.h.D. student in Oceanography

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I am submitting this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate. I have spoken with other students, including international students in my network, and I believe we can better support them right now in these uncertain times. I am also supplementing my comments with a request to consider the additional impacts the international students and staff from the East-West Center are receiving due to federal budget cuts.**

There was some communication about the visa challenges we have received already. On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas:

*1. You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University*

*officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

*2. Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and are beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

*3. To support our community, the [UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage](#) now includes [FAQs for international students](#) and [FAQs on immigration enforcement](#). There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.*

*4. Resources for [international student services](#) and [mental health support](#) for all students and employees can also be found on the [updates and resource webpage](#).*

*5. We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to update the site with federal policy developments and new resources.*

As a United States citizen, I am worried for my international colleagues at this time. We are glad to see an exhaustive list of resources and updates for international students on the federal updates website, which was updated on the website by April 7th, before the announcement from President Hensel was released on April 11th. **Although these webpages do provide crucial, timely, and relevant information, the international students in my network as well as I, would also like to suggest that the following changes be implemented:**

1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and are therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#))

2. Have information available in the federal updates page also be available at ISS's website and vice versa (e.g., the [Alien Registration & Carrying Immigration Documents](#) info page is not available at the federal updates website)

3. Recommend that, aside from carrying I-94 documents, all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times

4. Indicate a clear chain of command concerning a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update.

Regarding this, in a separate email, some transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked, and also which campuses they were from. I've heard from my colleagues at UH Hilo that there were two students here who had their visas revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.

Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be

prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
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3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
4. UH International Student Services staff must be assigned to check the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) daily. If a student visa is revoked, UH administration should immediately alert this student.
5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status.
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**A special note on the East-West Center:**

I would also like to add that many of the students and staff at the University are also members of the East-West Center community, which provides housing, scholarships, research, and professional opportunities to our UH community. Without the support from the East-West Center, these international students and staff will be even more vulnerable in these trying times, and it would be prudent to try and work with the East-West Center to support members of our international UH community.

**Finally,**

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to put action in motion towards your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 11:29 AM

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Your Name (required)

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Alycia Kiyabu

Your Organization (optional)

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

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alyciak@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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Please see attached.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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[BOR AgendaIV - Testimony.pdf](#)

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 11:49 AM

April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Alycia Kiyabu, Lecturer for the Indo Pacific Language and Literatures Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

*To support our community, the UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage now includes FAQs for international students and FAQs on immigration enforcement. There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.*

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- Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times
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**With regard to how the announcement was handled (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**



- Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
- Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
- Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

- All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as immigration red cards, stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
- UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.
- UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The response by Sunil Kumar, the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.
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- UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, "*However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process.*" is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status

- UH administrative leadership must commit to providing immigration support for all students subject to governmental discipline or deportation including contacts of immigration attorneys and funding to support representation. This will enable affected students to consider their myriad options thoughtfully, without the stress of financial burden (e.g., applying for reinstatement, appealing SEVIS termination, etc.). Providing the contact information of the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic and the Office of General Counsel are an important initial step, but the University must guarantee that it will support students to the best of their ability above and beyond what can be provided by legal nonprofits.
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- Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Maemaeolehua Matsumoto

Your Organization (optional)

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

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mm367@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Maemaeolehua Matsumoto, PhD Student in the Department of American Studies

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas:

*You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

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1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#))
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4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
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**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

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of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.

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3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 11:53 AM



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Your Name (required)

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William Nelson

Your Organization (optional)

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University of Hawaii at Manoa SOEST

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

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wnelson@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 12:30 PM

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Your Name (required)

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Maggie Bradley

Your Organization (optional)

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

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msbrad@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

---

April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Maggie Bradley

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 3:10 PM



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Your Name (required)

---

Christina Busby

Your Organization (optional)

---

UH Manoa

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

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cjp.busby@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Christina Busby, EDEF PhD Candidate

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2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
3. Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.

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We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that “we are not facing this challenge alone” and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Mahalo nui

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

*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.*

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Your Name (required)

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Raffi Isah

Your Organization (optional)

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

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raffiisah@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

---

April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Raffi Isah

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas: *You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

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1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.
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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No Response

Submission Date

April 16, 2025 at 6:50 PM



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Your Name (required)

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Noelani Akiona

Your Organization (optional)

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

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kyliens@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Noelani Akiona, MA Pacific Island Studies student

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 8:00 PM

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Your Name (required)

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Tatsuki Kohatsu

Your Organization (optional)

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

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bcbcbc.k.t@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 16, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Tatsuki Kohatsu, Graduate Student

Comments only: Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)



No Response

Submission Date

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April 16, 2025 at 9:07 PM

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Your Name (required)

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Ned Bertz

Your Organization (optional)

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University of Hawai'i-Mānoa

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

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bertz@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

---

BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

---

April 17, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ned Bertz, Associate Professor, Department of History, UHM

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

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2. Transparency with regard to the exact number of students whose visas were revoked. The April 11th email from President Hensel did not indicate how many students were affected, but a Honolulu Star Advertiser article released on April 15th indicated that they were able to confirm with UH admin that "fewer than five UH students have had their visas revoked." We hope that the same courtesy extended to the Honolulu press with regard to releasing information can also be extended to the members of the UH community.
3. Transparency with regard to the nature of the reasons for visa revocations, with no identifying information to respect the affected individuals' privacy. Given the wide variety of reasons that have been publicly released from those who have chosen to go public from the nearly 180 colleges and universities and 1,200 international students and recent graduates affected nationwide, it would be prudent for international students be given the opportunity to take precautions based on the reasons why international students particularly in UH have had their visas revoked.

**With regard to future tangible steps to be undertaken by the University, we recommend the following steps, echoing demands by concerned UH faculty:**

1. All departments must be encouraged to create an ICE protocol that can be implemented as soon as possible under the guidance of the Office of General Counsel. Previously, the interpretation and implementation of federal Executive Orders were left up to departments up to decide, resulting in a lot

of confusion and unintended consequences that must be avoided with regard to ICE. The safety and security of the most vulnerable members of our community are at stake - **the implementation of ICE protocols must not be left up to departments to decide based on their own assessments of risk.** The University must also provide material support for items to complement departmental ICE protocols and trainings - items such as [immigration red cards](#), stickers to help mark private areas, and any other paraphernalia that might be useful now and in the near future must be provided by the university at no additional cost to all who need it.

2. UH must prepare the incoming members of our community for such situations. We ask that all future undergraduate, graduate student, graduate assistant, faculty and staff orientations and trainings in the upcoming semesters include guidelines of how to deal with immigration enforcement on campus.

3. UH administrative leadership must continue supporting academic freedom and all forms of free speech, including curriculum, by publicly defending any faculty, staff or student should they come under attack for practicing their First Amendment rights protected under the US Constitution. The [response by Sunil Kumar](#), the President of Tufts University, to Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Tufts University doctoral student from Turkey, being taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security is an example of such public defense.

4. UH International Student Services staff must be assigned to check the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) daily. If a student visa is revoked, UH administration should immediately alert this student.

5. UH administrative leadership must commit to keep any UH student who has their visa revoked enrolled. Despite pressure by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to unenroll a student, this decision is ultimately up to our university. This disclaimer from UH, found after every answer in the FAQ section for international students, *"However, visa renewals are determined by federal authorities, and UH has no control over that process."* is misleading, as the University has the unilateral power to support students whose visas have been revoked by continuing to maintain their enrollment status

6. UH administrative leadership must commit to providing immigration support for all students subject to governmental discipline or deportation including contacts of immigration attorneys and funding to support representation. This will enable affected students to consider their myriad options thoughtfully, without the stress of financial burden (e.g., applying for reinstatement, appealing SEVIS termination, etc.). Providing the contact information of the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic and the Office of General Counsel are an important initial step, but the University must guarantee that it will support students to the best of their ability above and beyond what can be provided by legal nonprofits.

7. UH administrative leadership must commit to ensuring that internal grievance/complaint procedures (especially those based on Title VI) include adequate procedural safeguards. For example, affected students should not be locked out of their campus housing or prevented access to any university services or resources while being subject to an investigation.

8. Given the federal government's use of Artificial Intelligence to identify campus protesters, university administrators must not share data, including photos, emails, and video footage, extracted from any surveillance of campus protests or assemblies. In the absence of litigation, any data related to campus protesters and/or assemblies should be deleted and not stored.

We recognize and appreciate the authority and advocacy of the President and the Board of Regents. We especially ask President Hensel to live up to your statement that "we are not facing this challenge alone" and thus request formal affirmation that you will take the steps outlined above to protect the health, safety, and security of our non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 17, 2025 at 3:14 PM

*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.*

*\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.*

Your Name (required)

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Meagan Harden

Your Organization (optional)

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

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Meaganharden2018@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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I urge President Hensel to live up to her promise that international students will not face a hostile federal administration alone. I especially ask President Hensel to provide formal affirmation that she will take the steps outlined by Academic Labor United to protect the health, safety, and security of non U.S. citizen faculty, staff, and students in these unsettling and disorienting times.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 17, 2025 at 8:56 AM



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Your Name (required)

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Kate Yusi

Your Organization (optional)

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

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yusikate@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

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BOR - IV. Report of the President

Your Position (required)

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Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

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April 17, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Kate L. Yusi, PhD Student, Political Science, UH Manoa

**Comments only:** Agenda Item IV. Report of the President

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**We submit this testimony to provide comments on the Report of the President, particularly with recommendations on how to further improve support for international students and graduate assistants, who are particularly vulnerable in this current political climate.**

On Friday, April 11th, the UH community received an email with the subject line: *President Hensel: Fiscal planning, student visas, more FAQs*. This was the content of the email on international student visas: *You may have seen national reports about visa challenges facing international students, and unfortunately, UH is not immune to these impacts. As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked. University officials are working directly with the affected students to provide information and support and connect them with available resources.*

*Our more than 1,700 international students, along with our international scholars and faculty, are valued members of the UH 'ohana. While visa decisions are made by federal authorities and beyond our control, we are doing everything possible to offer guidance and care.*

*To support our community, the [UH Federal Policy Updates and Resource Webpage](#) now includes [FAQs for international students](#) and [FAQs on immigration enforcement](#). There have been no reports of any immigration actions on our campuses to date.*

Resources for [international student services](#) and [mental health support](#) for all students and employees can also be found on the [updates and resource webpage](#).

We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to update the site with federal policy developments and new resources.

We are glad to see an exhaustive list of resources and updates for international students to the federal updates website which were updated on the website by April 7th, before the announcement from President Hensel was released on April 11th. **Although these webpages do provide crucial, timely and relevant information, we would also like to suggest the following changes be implemented:**

1. Refrain from posting links that have a paywall and therefore inaccessible to most students (e.g., [this NY Times article listing 43 countries with a possible ban](#))
2. Have information available in the federal updates page also be available at ISS's website and vice versa (e.g., the [Alien Registration & Carrying Immigration Documents](#) info page is not available at the federal updates website)
3. Recommend that aside from carrying I-94 documents that all non-U.S. citizens prioritize carrying official REAL ID-compliant identification with them at all times
4. Indicate a clear chain of command with regard to a student who has been affected by visa revocations (e.g., should they contact their program adviser first, or ISS?)

**With regard to how the announcement was handled** (e.g., "As of today, a few of our students have had their visas revoked."), **we would like to recommend that future announcements of this nature:**

1. Be released in its own separate email, as its inclusion in a general email with a lot of additional information may lead to vulnerable members of the UH community not being aware of this important update
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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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No Response

Submission Date

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April 18, 2025 at 7:07 AM