

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2014 LEGISLATURE

HCR 48 SD1

REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF FORMING A UH HILO
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

NOVEMBER 2013

Report to the Hawai`i State Legislature

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Report on Feasibility of Forming a UH Hilo Men's Volleyball Team

The House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution No. 48, S.D.1, was adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawai`i during its regular session of 2013. The resolution established a task force to examine the feasibility of forming a Men's Volleyball Program at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo (UH Hilo).

The committee was comprised of the following individuals, as directed by the joint resolution, and called together by UH Hilo Athletic Director Dexter Irvin:

1. Chancellor's Designee-Steven Colbert, UH Hilo Faculty Member.
2. County of Hawai`i Department of Research and Development Director's designee-Donn Mende, Deputy Director.
3. Community volleyball advocate appointed by Chair of the House Representative on Higher Education-Elroy Osorio, Men's Volleyball advocate and Pac West Volleyball Official's Assigner.
4. Community volleyball advocate appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education-Sharon Peterson, HPA Boys Volleyball Coach and former UH Hilo Women's Coach.
5. A member of the travel industry invited by Director of Athletics-Ross Birch, Executive Director of Big Island Visitors Bureau.

The committee met twice during the year on September 6, 2013 and September 25, 2013 at the UH Hilo athletic office. Reports from local representatives from both East and West Hawai`i suggest support from parents, fans and students and led to the following conclusions:

- A. **The committee believes that men's volleyball would be a substantial addition to UH Hilo and an inspiration to the Big Island community.** As there is no current National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Men's Volleyball in the State, Men's Volleyball at UH Hilo could provide a significant boost to the vibrancy of the community and provide educational and athletic opportunities for young men that currently do not exist.
- B. UH Hilo has a men's club team currently in place with over twenty five participants and substantially every high school in the state of Hawai'i is participating in boys' competitive volleyball. Based upon current participation levels, it is reasonable to conclude that the addition of men's volleyball to UH Hilo will have a substantial impact on enrollments, retention of student-athletes, and community support and interaction.
- C. As the joint resolution declares that, "volleyball is one of the most popular sports in the State", and the overwhelming popularity of men's club volleyball as demonstrated by the annual Big Island Haili and other tournaments, an initial surge in community support for the University would occur. The extent of the support

- would be contingent upon the reasonable success of the program and the number of student-athletes that participate from the state of Hawai'i.
- D. With twelve current sports and overall athletic budgets that place UH Hilo in the bottom 1/3 of the Pacific West Conference, the projected cost of the program cannot be currently born by the University or the department of intercollegiate athletics. While limited startup cost could be accomplished through fundraising efforts, the ongoing funding model must be built into the base budget of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics in order to sustain the program.
 - E. A women's sand volleyball or other program would be a prerequisite as a Title IX requirement, to keep UH Hilo in compliance with the law. Sand Volleyball is an NCAA emergent sport with several Pacific West institutions competing and the relative cost is low compared to adding other women's sports such as swimming, water polo, or lacrosse.

With men's volleyball and women's sand volleyball as intercollegiate sports, and determined by the current athletic graduation rates, the number of additional graduates of the University, combined with the community and island support could be significant. With UH Hilo athletics academic success rate above 75%, and based upon the projected number of participants at other member institutions, the University can expect an initial increase of both new students and potentially more graduates. This could include additional first generation students as well as those students who would otherwise leave Hawai'i to compete in men's volleyball programs on the mainland.

The economic impact of additional teams coming to the island of Hawai'i, as a result of athletic competition, will assist the local economy with an infusion of outside investment dollars in hotels, meals, and transportation. Additional tourism dollars could be generated with specific volleyball events in both East and West Hawai'i.

OVERALL RATIONAL FOR MEN'S VOLLEYBALL & WOMEN'S SAND VOLLEYBALL

One of the stated guiding values of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at UH Hilo is Resourcefulness:

–The investment of resources from the University, from the State and from our donors and supporters will be cultivated responsibly and managed carefully with an eye to sustaining a long-term future for our athletic programs and **maximizing participation for as many students as possible**. In addition, resources will be used to minimize institutional liability and promote student health and safety to the best of our ability.

Furthermore one of the stated goals for the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics through 2013 is to "continue to provide, and seek out, equitable opportunities for students and student-athletes."

Another stated guiding value at UH Hilo Office of Intercollegiate Athletics is Diversity:

– UH Hilo is uniquely positioned to provide higher education access opportunities to students from the state of Hawai'i and beyond and is especially sensitive to **ensuring**

that men and women have equitable access to athletic participation opportunities; further, the diversity of our student-athletes will be leveraged purposely to enhance the student educational experience.

Volleyball is almost by definition a Hawaiian-centric sport and UH Hilo, currently fields a highly successful indoor women's volleyball program. There are 998 million people in the world that play volleyball, the most of any sport. The second most played sport is basketball with 400 million. Only 252 million play soccer. Volleyball is considered a predominantly male sport in every country but the United States. There are 220 countries that have men's volleyball programs, more countries than participate in the United Nations (192 countries are UN members). USA is the only country in the world to have teams playing in every Olympics starting in 1984.

The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation has indicated that they would view the application for men's volleyball in a very positive fashion as they currently have thirteen institutions and would like to have fourteen for men's volleyball. Institutions currently in the MPSF include the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Pepperdine, current Pac West Conference member Cal Baptist and Stanford University. Women's sand volleyball would play as an independent and opportunities will grow as the sport develops.

With every high school in the state participating in men's volleyball and with most men's volleyball players leaving the state to participate in the sport after graduation, UH Hilo is poised to be the only NCAA Division II institution in the state to offer men's volleyball and can provide access to higher education for many seeking a volleyball experience in the state.

POSITIVE POINTS FOR EXPANSION OF MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AND WOMEN'S SAND VOLLEYBALL

Two new volleyball programs would have substantial impact in the community as well as many of our current sports offered at UH Hilo. The following points are the major reasons why these sports are critical to our future. They will:

1. Provide additional educational opportunities for Hawai'i and Pacific island residents.
2. Increase the number of home events that can be supported by students and community.
3. Work within institutional infrastructure that already exists for compliance, facilities, trainers, etc.
4. Increase island-wide opportunities, especially for event development in West Hawai'i.
5. Increase/maintain academic success.

6. Increase enrollment with influx of new student-athletes and friends, etc., that come with them or as a result of having different sports offerings. This could lead to an additional enrollment spike of fifty students and maintainable 25-30 students per semester.
7. Provide additional student-athletes that have both higher or equal retention and graduation rates as compared to the overall student population.
8. Increase retention/graduation rates due to increase in student activities and life at the University.
9. Add to the potential number of first generation state of Hawai`i students to the student body.
10. Increase on-campus (resident) students.
11. Create an increase in gross revenue to the University and add to the economic impact of the University in the Hilo community and West Hawai`i.
12. Add to the potential to develop stronger ties, interest and support from the community and alumni of the University.
13. Increase fund raising opportunities and corporate sponsor value.
14. Create a stronger recruiting base in the state of Hawai`i and the Big Island of Hawai`i.
15. Provide an avenue for improved marketing, advertising and increase name recognition for the University in the region, state and nation. Through expansion and more successful programs, the media coverage for the University will increase dramatically.
16. Potentially improve the overall image of the University.

NEGATIVE POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANSION OF MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AND WOMEN'S SAND VOLLEYBALL

1. Possible Spring gym issues with outdoor sports when raining.
2. Increase risk of off-court/field problems and resulting in negative press with more men on campus.
3. Increase facility demands for both the University and athletics, including locker-rooms and classrooms.
4. Creates an additional demand on University and athletic resources that may not sufficiently be meeting the current needs of the University.

5. Possible increase in some University class sizes.
6. Create a probable need for scholarship after year three.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED VOLLEYBALL PROGRAMS

2014-17 Women's Sand Volleyball Budget:

Coach	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
(current women's vb coach overload)			
Assistant Coach	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Operational (1 mainland trip -3 Oahu trips)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000
Total	\$ 57,500	\$ 57,500	\$ 67,500

2014-17 Men's Volleyball Budget:

1 FTE Coach	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Assistant Coach	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
*Operational yr 1	\$ 75,000		
*Operational yr 2		\$ 75,000	
*Operational yr 3			\$ 95,000
Total	\$137,500	\$137,500	\$157,500

Total Women's Sand Volleyball/Men's Volleyball	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$225,000
NCAA Compliance Assistant	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Game Management/Sport Information	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Total Expenses Men's VB & Women's SVB	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$295,000

*Based on three mainland trips