



Regents Policy Chapter 12, Research  
Regents Policy RP 12.203, Right to Investigate and Disseminate  
Effective Date: Apr. 21, 2016  
Prior Dates Amended: Mar. 17, 2011; Oct. 31, 2014 (recodified)  
Review Date: August 2019

**I. Purpose**

To set forth policy regarding the right to investigate and disseminate.

**II. Definitions**

No policy specific or unique definitions apply.

**III. Policy**

- A. The University recognizes the right of the scholar to inquire and disseminate the results of inquiry according to the established forms of academic freedom, recognizing that an individual's work may have profound effects on the academic community.
- B. Research conducted on behalf of the University, whether funded by an external sponsor or through an application of University resources, is directed by individuals or groups of investigators associated with the University. University officials responsible for committing resources such as facilities, equipment and administrative support may decide to support projects or to apply for external funding for projects, but may not direct the research. Thus, research is conducted under joint decisions by investigators and university officials.
- C. The University guarantees the freedom to inquire of each member of the academic community and affirms the right of each member to gain access to all available relevant information. Each member also has the absolute right to choose whether, how, and where to publish scholarly conclusions and results of research. The commitment to academic freedom in the conduct of research does not imply that the faculty member's research is not subject to critical review and judgment as to its quality and significance.

- D. Notwithstanding the right of individual investigators to choose whether to participate in projects for which the sponsor may impose certain limitations on dissemination it is the policy of the University to press for maximum openness among agencies—governmental or private—that place any kind of restriction upon access to information of a scholarly character.
- E. Whenever a given research project or award is accepted by the University, it means that the following conditions have been met: the proposed program or activity is desirable and compatible with the mission of the respective academic or research unit; those responsible for committing the use of facilities and other resources of the University agree to accept the commitment involved; the investigator accepted the terms and conditions of the contract or grant; and the investigator has disclosed all potential conflicts of interest.
- F. Any disputes of scholarly activity involving university officials designated with approving authority shall be resolved according to established University due process procedures.

**IV. Delegation of Authority**

There is no policy specific delegation of authority.

**V. Contact Information**

Office of the Vice President for Research & Innovation, 956-5006,  
uhovpri@hawaii.edu

**VI. References**

- A. <http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/>
- B. RP 12.202, Principal Investigator
- C. RP 12.204, Classified Research
- D. AP 8.910, Procedures for the Preparation and Submission of Proposals to External Sponsors and the Review/Approval of Sponsored Agreements

**VII. Exhibits and Appendices**

No Exhibits and Appendices found

**Approved:**

Approved as to Form:

/S/  
Cynthia Quinn  
Executive Administrator and  
Secretary of the Board of Regents

04/21/2016  
Date