



University of Hawaii Board of Regents Meeting
August 27, 2009

**Testimony re Agenda Items Covering the UH Supplemental Budget for FY10-11
and Administrative Appointments**

The University of Hawaii is facing an extraordinary budget crisis for one reason: the restriction of legislatively appropriated funds by Governor Lingle. The presentation today by the UH administration with respect to the Supplemental Budget request to the Legislature for FY11 accepts the Governor's restrictions and adopts them as the operating assumptions for the University. UHPA believes that these reductions in state revenue support for public higher education are so severe that they rise to a level of public policy that should not be determined simply through the unilateral decision of the Governor to restrict appropriations. The Legislature, elected to reflect the will of the people, should make the public policy decisions with respect to the future of public higher education. To that end, the Board of Regents should be proposing general fund revenue allocations that allow the institution to meet the increased enrollment demands for higher education in our state, and also support the research and training accomplishments of the faculty who have continued to bring in historic levels of external funding to our university and our state. The Legislature should not be led to believe that the university can continue to provide all of the instruction, service, and research it is currently offering with \$100 million less general fund support each year of this biennium. The assumptions made in this supplemental budget cannot be sustained.

At this point, the Board of Regents should take no action to expand further programs or personnel until the general funding base is restored to a level at least that of the 2009 Legislative appropriations. UHPA has proposed that there be an absolute freeze on the hiring of all administrators. This would include making permanent any current interim or temporary administrative hires. For this, and other reasons related to the process of selection and opposition from the faculty, we call upon the Regents to not approve the permanent appointment of a new Director for the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. Should the request to add a new position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UH-Hilo be brought forth, the Regents should reject it despite recent statements from the Hilo administration that they have not been "hurt" by the budget cuts. The current proposal being circulated to establish a new "super dean" and "department chair coordinators" for the College of Arts & Sciences at UH-Manoa should be placed on hold. Consideration should be given to allow all vacant administrative positions to remain unfilled, and the possible consolidation and reduction of assistant deans and other administrative positions should be considered.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive · Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 · Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>



Vacant faculty positions should only be filled when there is a critical instructional, service, or research need to be met. Finally, despite the Governor's position, the Regents should adopt financial incentives to encourage staff retirements at all levels.

The Board of Regents should lead an exhaustive effort to convince the Legislature that higher education deserves a place of priority in the public policies of this state, and that those priorities can only be accomplished with sufficient state revenues. Ultimately, the Legislature must decide how much higher education the citizens are willing and able to support through their tax dollars. The University has a solid argument in favor of more higher education, but if the citizens of this state, through their elected leaders, are not willing to support all of our educational missions, then those missions will have to be reduced or eliminated. We cannot mislead the public that there is a way to reduce the costs of higher education, even temporarily, without affecting the classes offered, the students served, the grants received, or the new knowledge gained. It is unreasonable to expect that the dedicated faculty of the university should or would do more for less.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. N. Musto', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

J. N. Musto, Ph.D.
Executive Director