



Board of Regents
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Campus Center Ballroom
May 19, 2011

Testimony in Opposition to the Abolishment of the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC), University of Hawaii at Manoa

Last December, I testified before the BOR Committee on Academic Affairs concerning the proposal to abolish the PBRC. I noted the historical context of the PRBC as the original bio-medical research program at the University of Hawaii. The PBRC has been a successful research endeavor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa for decades, and there is no evidence that given the proper support it could not continue to function in this capacity into the future.

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) has reviewed the various proposed "reorganizations" of the PBRC over the years, and we have not yet found any data or evidence that these proposals would lead to any greater efficiency or effectiveness in the research carried out by the PBRC.

At this point, the proposal has devolved into the dissolution of the entire organizational structure. We continue to be puzzled by the motivation of the UH-Manoa administration to continue to pursue this issue. Again, there was no evidence presented to the Committee on Academic Affairs that would justify eliminating the PBRC. The UH-Manoa administration's plans to disperse the faculty of PBRC would not be more cost efficient or encourage expanded research. It is more likely that eliminating the core faculty of PBRC will result in less total external research dollars to the UH. By creating an academic diaspora of the faculty members currently in the PBRC, you will ruin an effective community of researchers.

UHPA has been assured that this proposal will not cause the loss of positions for tenured faculty members or those "temporary faculty" who are supported by external of the PBRC, UHPA will vigorously pursue this assurance on behalf of those faculty members who are affected.

Neither the UH-Manoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee nor any other faculty organizations support this action. We believe that the Board should reject the recommendation of the Committee on Academic affairs and the UH-Manoa administration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. N. Musto".

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

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY