Nani Azman Assistant Professor, Psychology, University of Hawai'i Maui College Secretary, University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly May 31, 2013

Media Talking Points

Overarching Headline Statement:

 We are first and foremost a university of and for Hawai'i and her people. It's time to make students our priority. Faculty, administration and staff are here to look after the best interests of students. We need a new leader that starts with the right priorities.

Main Supporting Points:

Challenges of faculty

Faculty are pressured to meet artificial and arbitrary metrics that do not work for our students in the real world. Faculty at the UH Maui College and other community colleges find themselves between a rock and hard place: We want to meet the diverse needs of our students, but our success is measured by what works for the stereotypical college students that is all but outdated, especially in Hawaii.

Lessons Learned

We should be wary of anyone who wants to "save" the University of Hawai'i system by making it more like Mainland schools. Our recent past presidents have brought more trouble than solutions. We cannot afford to let history repeat itself. We need the right kind president for our unique university.

Background:

Importance of community colleges

About two-thirds of the 60,000 UH students are part of campuses outside of Manoa. Our new UH president must understand that the needs of the students and faculty at the community colleges must be factored into all decisions.