

HEDtestimony

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 3:27 PM
To: HEDtestimony; Rep. Joe Bertram III
Cc: Rep. Ryan Yamane
Subject: HCR313; HED; 3/27; 2:15PM; Rm 309
Importance: High
Attachments: Card for Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>

HCR313, Requesting the Auditor
HED; Chair, Rep Chang

I SUUPPORT THIS RESO WITH ONE RESERVATION.

My main **reservation** about this reso is that I am concerned that the audit not be used punitively against the School of Social Work (SSW), where I am the senior faculty member (old guy).

My **support** for this reso is based on the idea that the School of Social Work badly needs outside help in dealing with a huge jump in faculty and funds over the past few years, and there is absolutely no transparency in the School as to how those funds are being managed...or mismanaged.

A key problem in the School is that there are only five tenured Instructional faculty and some 50 other recent additions to the faculty who are working in various positions. The issue here is that tenured Instructional faculty are, by UH rules, supposed to be in charge of the curriculum and the research endeavors of all programs. In the School of Social Work, however, curricular issues are decided by the votes of all faculty and staff, thereby removing from it's proper locus the responsibility that the tenured Instructional faculty are supposed to have. More importantly, very few of the students in the SSW have the opportunity to be taught by these Instructional faculty. Most of the teaching in the SSW is done by people from the community or people without doctoral degress. Thus, students really are being

shortchanged.

A key issue for the audit to address is the lack of transparency in the SSW. There is very little or no communication about many of the basic activities and directions of the School. Two recent examples: Your committee held a hearing last week about a very important reso that could change the way the SSW does research. None of the faculty ever were informed about this reso. The second example is the other reso on your schedule today, that one to change the name of the SSW. The first I heard about that reso was reading it today on the hearing notice. Is this any way to run a University program?

The last key issue that could bear auditing is the huge influx of funds in the past few years in the School. On the surface, that is a good thing. But the faculty and others have no way of knowing how those funds are being disbursed and whether they really go to further the School's mission versus the dean's favorite sources, Sadly, only the dean and a few of his friends know where those funds go. It is not even clear that the School has the financial/administrative capacity to properly manage these funds. Without openness and transparency, the School administration become less accountable. Thus, this audit will be very important in assuring the faculty, University and our community that accountability measures are in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

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University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
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"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill



House HED Committee
For hearing on Thurs, March 27
2:15 pm
Deliver 5 copies to Rm 311

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 25, 2008

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair
And members of the House Higher Education Committee

FROM: Jeanette Matsumoto, President
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

RE: HCR 313 -REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A MANAGEMENT AUDIT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Chair Chang and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I am Jeanette Matsumoto, President of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter.

NASW supports the intent of HCR 313 to hold accountable any recipient of taxpayer monies and whether its stated mission and strategic plan are being achieved. Such a review by a respected entity such as the Legislative Auditor would be beneficial for the UH School of Social Work and provide important information as to the overall health of the profession. However, based on the language of this resolution, we feel that further clarification is needed to articulate the purpose for an audit. If there is a specific compelling reason for a management audit, it needs to be identified and stated in the resolution.

As the largest professional organization for social workers in the state with over 950 members, NASW, Hawai'i Chapter is more than willing to be of assistance to the auditor or the UH School of Social Work in this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education**
March 27, 2008 at 2:15 p.m., Conference Room 309

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by
Jon K. Matsuoka
Dean, School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 313 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jon Matsuoka, I am the Dean of the UHM School of Social Work and I am testifying today in opposition to HCR 313, which requests the legislative auditor to perform a management audit of the School of Social Work.

Let me state from the onset that the UHM School of Social Work believes strongly in the concept of accountability and does, in fact, submit itself to regular reviews (effectively, compliance audits) from both internal and external sources. This would include program reviews done by the University of Hawai'i every five years, and regular reaccreditation/reaffirmation reviews done by the Western Association of School and Colleges and by the Council on Social Work Education. The UHM School of Social Work has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the only nationally recognized organization that has been given the authority for the establishment and enforcement of training standards for social workers in the United States, since 1948. Since its inception in 1942, the School has never failed to pass any review or audit that it has been subjected to.

Our objection to HCR 313 lies in the fact that it is asking the state (both the Legislative Auditor's Office and the University of Hawai'i) to commit time and resources to do something for which no actual need or justification has been established. The preamble of the resolution, which normally supplies general information or arguments that give a reason for the legislative action being proposed, offers neither. It simply states what the mission, principle responsibilities, and strategic plan are for the School of Social Work, then immediately proposes that a management audit be done.

Even if a need or other justification for a management audit could be established, we would argue that the involvement of the Legislative Auditor's Office is unnecessary. As stated earlier,

the School of Social Work is reviewed regularly by a number of different entities. In 2009, the school will be undergoing another reaccreditation review by the Council on Social Work Education. As usual, all aspects of the school's operations will be evaluated – both by a site visitation team as well as by a committee on the basis of the site visitation team report and self-study reports submitted by the School of Social Work. The process is a stringent one and strenuous enough for the University of Hawai'i to forgo a scheduled internal program review that would have been done during the same period. If the State Legislature really determines that there is a legitimate need for a management or compliance audit of the UHM School of Social Work, we would suggest that they utilize the reaccreditation report that will become available at the completion of the review process rather than utilizing additional state resources to accomplish the same thing.

For these reasons, I am urging this committee to deny passage of HCR 313. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on this matter.



House HED Committee
For hearing on Thurs, March 27
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

National Association of Social Workers

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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