



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 1:50 p.m.

By

Kathleen Cutshaw

Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Operations
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

SCR 139 / SR 60 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO
ADOPT A BUDGET MODEL THAT ALLOCATES RESOURCES
ACCORDING TO A TRANSPARENT AND EQUITABLE
FORMULA.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SCR 139 and SR 60, requesting the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa adopt a budget model that allocates resources according to a transparent and equitable formula. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has undertaken extensive review of peer models and criteria and has already adopted a budget allocation model. The model is to be implemented with the start of the next fiscal year (FY17-18) with a particular focus of aligning limited revenues and funding to programs of core educational delivery or areas for strategic growth.

The new budget model will allocate a portion of net tuition dollars directly to all of our teaching units based on student semester hours taught, the number of majors and the number of degrees awarded.

As such, the University of Hawai'i believes that SCR 139 and SR 60 are not necessary and request that these measures be deferred.

LATE

From: dasguptafirst@gmail.com on behalf of [Monisha Das Gupta](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: SCR 139 and SR 60
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:41:07 PM

I am writing in strong support of a Senate Resolution that requests the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to distribute its tuition dollars equitably. Here is the deep inequity: the College of Arts and Sciences, which generates more than half of the student semester hours, receives only 18 percent of the tuition and general funds combined. The reward system for doing the work of the university -- teaching our students -- is skewed and has been for years.

Our students, who come with great aspirations, deserve better! My students come from hardworking families. My students are often the first in their families to go to college. They need an array of resources to support their learning. Cuts to the A&S budget have been disastrous for units that do the heavy lifting to make sure our students are fulfilling their GenEd requirements, getting the classes they need to graduate, and receiving the academic support to meet the rigors of receiving an education at a 4-year research university, with stellar undergraduate and graduate programs. The Resolution will allow for a recalibration that faculty and students have requested for years.

Monisha Das Gupta , Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.
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LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.R. 60 AND S.C.R 139
THE SENATE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017, STATE OF HAWAII

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO ADOPT A BUDGET
MODEL THAT ALLOCATES RESOURCES ACCORDING TO A TRANSPARENT
AND EQUITABLE FORMULA

Testimony submitted by Ruth Y. Hsu, PhD (rhsu@hawaii.edu)
Associate Professor of English
College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature
Colleges of the Arts & Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
March 28, 2017

As chair of the nearly 700 member Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate of the four Colleges of the Arts & Sciences, I wish to express our deepest appreciation for this opportunity to bring our concerns to your attention.

The central mission of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is to provide students a comprehensive research university. And the four colleges of the Arts & Sciences are the core of that mission, as liberal arts education is the core of every flagship state university in the country.

The faculty of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences in 23 departments teach roughly 90% of the general education curriculum or the core curriculum that every UH-Manoa BA or BS student must take before advancing to their majors or before going onto graduate or specialty degrees such as Law or Medicine.

When I arrived at UH-Manoa in 1992, the campus had a dynamic and robust liberal arts core education that is essential for our youth in a world which has become increasingly uncertain. Liberal arts education teaches fact-based and rational thinking, courage, adaptability, insight and foresight, and unfettered imagination and creativity -- qualities needed to keep families and the community strong and innovating.

Liberal arts education builds what matters in individuals – care for others and the world around us; life-long learners and problem-solvers who can spot a problem before it becomes a crisis, make a plan, implement, and hang around until the problem has been solved. A liberal arts education creates the responsible and innovative citizens of tomorrow; it is not in opposition to technology, rather Arts & Sciences, liberal arts education, is the foundation of a cutting edge, long-lasting, responsible technological society.

Since I first arrived at UH, over the years the Arts and Sciences have undergone years of drastic budget cuts that have seriously eroded the professorial rank in numerous units; undercut the ability of units to recruit, hire, and retain top-notch faculty; undercut the ability of faculty to maintain research and publication standards; and led to a harmful increase of student-to-faculty ratio in classes and an increase in the use of contingent, adjunct, and temporary hire instructors.ⁱ

No one else at UH-Manoa – besides perhaps our four deans--speaks up for the Arts & Sciences faculty, or even represents our concerns to decision-makers like the Regents. Over the years, I've witnessed faculty moral sink lower and lower even while they try to maintain the highest teaching and publishing standards; faculty work hard to remain competitive with colleagues around the nation and in other countries.

Tenure-line faculty are trained to do what adjuncts and temporary hires are not. The faculty I know work hard; their typical work week could be anywhere from 50 to 70 hours.

Our work extends beyond the classroom-- we prepare lectures, grade papers, design courses, manage department majors, minors, and other curricula, we mentor undergraduates, graduates, serve on honors, master's, and dissertation committees; we write textbooks, articles, history and literary criticism and other types of books, co-edit books, we review manuscripts, write reviews, we network at conferences, organize conferences, catch up on the latest innovations in our field, we host visiting scholars, write grant proposals, fill in time-consuming workload surveys and self-reports; we are outside readers for tenure and promotions cases at other universities, we serve on national and international professional associations.

Keywords: innovation, continual job retraining, refreshing knowledge base, striving to be on the leading edge in our field so that the university attracts top undergraduate and graduate students and, thereby, increase the value of the University to the State of Hawai'i.

How many departments and programs are in the College of Arts & Humanities: 9;
College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature: 7 departments and 13 centers of linguistics, translation, and language studies;

College of Natural Sciences: 7 departments and 3 programs

College of Social Sciences: 13 departments

The four colleges of Arts and Sciences provide approximately 55% of the total student semester hoursⁱⁱ and contain 42% of the UHM studentsⁱⁱⁱ and comprise 48% of the instructional faculty;^{iv}

ⁱ Summary of Chair's Responses to Inquiry from the ASFSEC, Appendix

ⁱⁱ UH Mānoa Status Update - Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman - Nov. 2015
http://www.uhm.hawaii.edu/ovcafo/newbudget/UH_Manóa_Status_Update-FINAL.pdf, or

ⁱⁱⁱ UH IRO Fall 2015 report

^{iv} UH- Mānoa Academic Department Report prepared by MIRO Nov. 2012

LATE

Testimony to the Hawai'i State Legislature Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 28, 2017

Aloha Kakou. I have been a faculty member at UH Manoa since 1972. During that time, I have never seen the morale of the faculty of the four Arts and Sciences colleges-the heart and soul of Liberal Arts education at Manoa-so low, the faculty so pessimistic about the future.

We in Arts and Sciences understand that we are not merely being neglected, but steadily defunded by the UH administration and Board of Regents. After years of drastic budget cuts, many of our faculty positions have disappeared. The English Department, for example, which had over seventy positions in the 1990s, now has thirty-four. These multi-year budget cuts have seriously eroded the ability of the units to recruit, hire and retain topnotch faculty, to maintain research and publication standards, to replace old and wornout equipment.

But we are most concerned about the impacts on our students. We witness a harmful situation in which departments are unable to teach all their courses (including ones required in their majors), or are forced to hire lecturers for courses which would be better taught by fulltime faculty. This may be a major contributor to the worrisome loss of students between the first and second years at Manoa.

What makes this especially inequitable is that while the Colleges of Arts and Sciences provide 55% of the total student semester hours and contain 42% of the UHM students and comprise 48% of UH faculty, they receive only 18% of the combined tuition and general funds allocated to UHM. The funds which should be directed to Arts and Sciences are being used to subsidize other university programs. We are, for instance, being used as a cash cow for the research institutes which in other universities are on soft money.

Unfortunately, the UH Board of Regents, President Lassner and Vice Chancellor Bruno have ignored our entreaties to them. Powerful forces within the university find the current situation to their liking. Therefore, we have turned to the Legislature to help align UH revenue sources from tuition with the units which actually do the teaching. We thank you for holding this hearing and can only hope that SR60/SCR139 receives your support.

Noel Kent Professor of Ethnic Studies Co-chair A&S Faculty Senate Executive Committee

LATE

From: [Rick Mills](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SR NO. 60 and SCR 139, 1:50 pm 3/28/17
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:49:30 AM

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following testimony.

I am Rick Mills, Professor of Art in the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Art and Art History. I have been in this position for nearly 30 years, the last 15 of which I have watched as our faculty positions go unfilled, research support is cut, and equipment and facilities literally fall apart.

I am support of SR NO. 60 and SCR 139 and believe that the University of Hawaii at Manoa must adopt a budget model that allocates resources according to a transparent and equitable formula. The College of Arts and Sciences at Manoa comprise 55% of the total student semester hours, 42% of the student body and 48% of the faculty on campus, YET we only receive 18% of the combined tuition and general funds allocated to the University.

I have witnessed the continual erosion of equipment and facilities while students and faculty alike struggle to keep our laboratories functioning at 100% without any resources to do so. I watch during advising as students try to enroll in courses that want and need, only to find they are overfilled already and are forced to enroll in their 2nd or 3rd choice. It is commendable that in the face of continual cuts, and an enmeshed in an unfair budget formula that faculty and students continue to persevere, yet we should be thriving! I fear though, unless these resolutions are adopted and pursued that this erosion will completely undermine our department and the core mission of the college and will result in a substantial cut in our course offerings next year and the functioning of our laboratories.

Respectfully submitted:

Rick Mills
Professor of Art
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