MINUTES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I BOARD OF REGENTS’
MEETING OF
February 23, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kitty Lagareta called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 2007, at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, Ballroom #3, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kona, Hawai‘i.

Attendance

Regents in attendance: Chairperson Kitty Lagareta; Andres Albano, Jr.; Byron W. Bender, Ph.D.; Michael A. Dahilig; Ramon de la Peña, Ph.D.; Marlene M. Hapai, Ph.D.; James J.C. Haynes II; Allan R. Landon; and Jane B. Tatibouet.

Others in attendance: President David McClain, Ph.D.; Vice President for Administration Sam Callejo; Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Howard Todo; Interim Vice President for Community Colleges John Morton, Ph.D.; Vice President for Legal Affairs and University General Counsel Darolyn Lendio, Esq.; Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Presley Pang, Esq.; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 21-22, 2006; seconded by Regent Dahilig. The minutes were approved, with eight Regents in favor; none opposed; and an abstention by Regent Landon.

Regent Dahilig moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 19-20, 2006; seconded by Regent Albano. The minutes were approved, with eight Regents in favor; none opposed; and an abstention by Regent Landon.

Regent Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16-17, 2006; seconded by Regent Albano. The minutes were approved, with eight Regents in favor; none opposed; and an abstention by Regent Landon.

Regent Bender moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 11-12, 2007; seconded by Regent Albano. The minutes were approved, with eight Regents in favor; none opposed; and an abstention by Regent Landon.
III. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

President McClain reported on the following centennial activities:

- The centennial campaign has raised $162 million of its $250 million goal.
- Honorary Chair Senator Daniel K. Inouye attended the first meeting of the cabinet campaign committee.
- UH Mānoa had 30 campus units work on service projects for a variety of community organizations on February 14th.
- On March 22nd, the Legislature will honor the University.
- March 25th, exactly 100 years ago since the University was chartered, will be celebrated with a tea ceremony on the Mānoa campus.

President McClain announced that John Hope Franklin, the foremost African-American historian in the United States, emeritus professor in Chicago and emeritus professor at Duke, the holder of over a hundred honorary degrees, will be the first Dan and Maggie Inouye Chair in Democratic Ideals. During March, he will give several lectures in the Hawai‘i community. This joint appointment benefits American Studies and the School of Law at Mānoa.

President McClain updated the status of University bills in the Legislature and provided an update on the accreditation process.

President McClain concluded with a report on enrollment, which has increased slightly despite the increase in tuition. The University’s significant increase in financial aid has contributed to the eight-tenths of a percent enrollment increase this spring from last spring.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Report on Accreditation Review of UH Community Colleges**

Vice President for Community Colleges Morton indicated that in January, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges granted full accreditation for the maximum six years for all seven community colleges. The one college that had been on warning was removed from warning, so all have full status.

Windward Community College must submit a status report to the commission in October 2007, followed by a visit.

Honolulu Community College must submit a report in March of 2008, followed by a visit.

In October of 2008, Hawai‘i Community College must submit a report on the state of the facilities development at both the Hilo and the Kona campuses. That is not to be followed by a visit.

The standard practice for community college accreditation is that at the end of three years of the six-year cycle, a midterm report is submitted by all
colleges. Maui and Hawai‘i must focus their reports on the recommendations that were included in the self-study reports; Kapi‘olani and Leeward must complete the normal midterm report.

Vice President Morton indicated that over 900 faculty and staff did the self-studies, and over 90 commissioners conducted the site inspections. He thanked the Regents for their support.

2. Discussion of Academic and Facilities Planning Related to West Hawai‘i Region

President McClain discussed the Second Decade Project. The Project determines the relative priority of state higher education needs by region in the State. This information is used to construct the University’s biennium budget and form the basis for future planning for 2011 through 2020.

The underlying principle of the Second Decade Project recognizes the benefit of having a single cohesive system of higher education. Three different missions are represented: those of the community colleges; those of baccalaureate institutions at UH Hilo and UH West O‘ahu; and those of a research campus at UH Mānoa. It recognizes the University’s obligation to invest its scarce resources effectively and to match its educational mission with its role as a land grant institution in the State’s economic development.

The Project divided the State into ten regions: Kaua‘i; West and East Hawai‘i; Maui County; and on O‘ahu, Wai‘anae; the North Shore; Windward; the Ewa Plains; Central O‘ahu; and East O‘ahu. Demographic factors were measured in each region and cluster analysis identified which regions were the most in need of educational resources.

- West Hawai‘i is the neediest of the ten regions for post secondary education and training, based on the population between 18 and 24 with less than a high school diploma.

- West Hawai‘i is the third neediest region for post secondary education and training, based on the population aged 18 through 64 with only a high school diploma.

- About 25 percent of the West Hawai‘i population have at least a bachelor's degree, comparing favorably with the State average.

- Just 12 percent of the West Hawai‘i’s population coming out of high school attends a UH community college. All the other regions have higher two-year going rates.

- Looking at going rates to four-year institutions, West Hawai‘i has a going rate a bit below the State average.

- The regions most in need of post secondary education and training are Wai‘anae and the Ewa Plain, then West Hawai‘i. Based on this analysis, the University would put its emphasis on the West O‘ahu area: the North Shore, Ewa and Wai‘anae, where the difference between the needs of the community and the UH presence is the greatest. This has resulted in the
University’s efforts to build a real West O'ahu campus for the first time in over 30 years.

- West Hawai’i is the second region that has the greatest imbalance between the needs of the region and the current UH facilities and offerings there.

The UH System is trying to increase the educational capital of the State – increasing the number of people who have associate's, bachelor's or graduate degrees. The President expressed his concern that the educational attainment of the 40-year-olds in the State is greater than the educational attainment of the 25-year-olds, for the first time in Hawai’i’s history. Parents have more education than their children in Hawai’i. This applies to only about nine other states.

The University focuses on expanding its workforce development initiatives, with more efforts in nursing, construction academies, the Cisco networking academies, teaching, science, technology, engineering and math. The University needs to work on diversifying the economy so that the current expansion can be sustained.

The University also focuses on addressing under-served regions and populations of the State, particularly populations of native Hawaiians, because Native Hawaiian values are at the center of the University’s strategic plan.

Statistics from the Department of Education indicate that of the students going to community colleges, about 85 to 90 percent need remediation in math, about 65 percent in writing, about 65 percent in writing and about 55 percent in reading. The University has received several grants that will help prepare students to enter college.

The President responded to several statements made by the Governor in a recent letter to him. He indicated that funds had been released for repairs and maintenance, at the Manono campus; that he had informed the Governor of the University request for CIP funds for the Island of Hawai’i prior to their meeting in November 2006; and that the University has been involved with the community in planning for facilities for West Hawai’i for the past 15 years.

Vice President Morton provided a history of the West Hawai’i plans. Hawai’i Community College is responsible for delivering all of the community college education on the Big Island, not just in Hilo or in Kona. The University has invested in distance learning technologies to reach more isolated areas of the island. At a University Center in Kona, Hawai’i Community College supports the delivery of bachelor’s, master’s, and professional degree programs so that West Hawai’i students can access programs without having to travel to O'ahu or Hilo.

Building a new facility goes through several stages within the University, and the University has been engaged in those here for 15 years. It assesses what the community wants academically. These become educational specifications that lay out the types and sizes of facilities needed to support those academic programs. After extensive communication and involvement with the community groups and campus faculty, the educational specifications for West Hawai’i were approved by the Board of Regents as part of the long range
development plan almost ten years ago. Later, a site selection in Kona was also approved.

The next step was developing a transition plan with sufficient design specifications to start preparing environmental impact statements, to start looking at off-site utilities, engineering and so forth. That work was done and completed for the West Hawai‘i site in 2001 and 2002. There have been both public hearings and public participation in those plans.

The University has been going through the same process in Hilo that led to the Regents deciding to relocate Hawai‘i CC from Manono to a new site at Komohana that can accommodate 5,000 students.

In the case of West Hawai‘i, the Center would relocate from Kealakekua Shopping Center to above Kalaoa in Kona. The sizing would accommodate 2,500 students, the target enrollment in 2015.

Vice President Morton described the original educational specifications developed in 1998. Hawai‘i Community College was to have an AA degree with a focus on a liberal arts program. There was a suggestion at that time that UH offer two-year business degrees, two-year degrees in culinary arts and hospitality and in agriculture.

Today, the liberal arts program is not as rich and full, partly for lack of facilities, partly from scale. Program offerings, however, have been enhanced by extensive use of distance education. Two-year degree programs in business have not been added, although there are courses. There is a two-year program in culinary arts, in very limited facilities.

Partly in response to the changes in the economy, new programs have been added that were not part of the 1998 plans, such as early childhood education, nursing, Hawaiian lifestyles and some of the human services programs. There are now business programs available from West O‘ahu, MBA programs from Mānoa, and education programs, both secondary certificates, master’s programs, bachelor’s degree and elementary ed. Also added but not mentioned in the 1998 plans are programs in psychology, counseling, substance abuse, nursing at the master’s level and social work.

The 1998 plan accommodated 1,500 FTE students and envisioned 75,000 square feet of space. It had two classrooms, including a better equipped science laboratory than what is available currently at Kealakekua. There was a food service facility to support the culinary arts program, a much larger library/learning center than what is available at the shopping center, much better support for students in terms of student services facilities, a continuing education building and administrative and ancillary support.

Since 1998, the county has asked the developer of Hiluhilu to build a new 20,000 square foot facility on the University site, bigger than the current Kealakekua space of 13,000 square feet. The University needs to determine exactly how best to use that.

In the intervening seven or eight years, there have been other changes based on the most recent demands from the community, such as the growth in agriculture, the demand for nursing programs, and the lack of qualified, trained
workers in West Hawai‘i. These new demands will be assessed to ensure that there is the instructional space to support that type of development.

President McClain said that there is great enthusiasm for a four-year campus everywhere in the State. The price is right, the quality is good, but there are economies of scale to keep in mind. Kaua‘i, which has about 60,000 residents, is about the same size as West Hawai‘i in population. Kaua‘i Community College has a head count between 1,000 and 1,200, and the full-time equivalent numbers would be about 800. The cost of educating a student at Kaua‘i is four times the cost of educating a student at Leeward Community College, which has about 6,000 students. The cost of educating a student at Kaua‘i is greater than the cost of educating a student at Mānoa, which has 90 bachelor's degrees, 90 master's degrees, and 55 to 60 Ph.D. programs.

President McClain noted that none of our community colleges have gone from a two-year to a four-year program. Maui Community College does have one four-year degree. He also noted that the University has two sets of accreditors: the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior Commission for baccalaureate campuses; and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community Colleges and Junior Colleges for the community colleges. The University must deal with two accreditors when moving from one mission to another.

In higher education, you get the best economies of scale when you have about 5,000 students. Only three campuses meet that number: Leeward and Kapi‘olani are in the 6,000 to 7,000 range; and the Mānoa campus is at 20,000. UH Hilo has 3,400. Seven campuses don't reach that economy of scale ideal. The University must be prepared to have a higher cost environment to be responsive to the people of this State.

Chair Lagareta commented that this Board has strongly supported addressing these needs. The Governor, the State, the Board of Regents, and the legislators are completely committed to serving the needs of this Island and the State. This Board has been looking at this information for almost two years and there's no question how serious and intense the needs of this Island are in terms of higher education. She stressed that the Board was in Kona to listen and work with the community to meet its educational needs.

Chair Lagareta recognized government officials in attendance: Director of Budget and Finance Georgina Kawamura; Representative Jerry Chang; Representative Cindy Evans; Representative Josh Green; Representative Jon Karamatsu; Representative Scott Nishimoto; Representative Maile Shimabukuro; Representative Dwight Takamine; Representative Glenn Wakai; Senator Mike Gabbard; Senator Russell Kokubun; Senator Clarence Nishihara; and Senator Norman Sakamoto.

She noted that others may be joining the meeting after lunch, and thanked the legislators, as well as the members of the community who were in attendance.

Students from Kealakehe High School were in attendance, and their student body president, Jenna Ha‘o, asked to address the Board. She said that a campus in West Hawai‘i would make it “easier for us to stay here instead of
moving to the mainland, and by doing that, it might keep us here instead of moving off to the mainland.”

Regent Haynes moved to recess for lunch, seconded by Regent de la Peña. The motion was carried, and the public meeting was recessed at 12:28 p.m.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The meeting was resumed at 1:33 p.m. with public testimony and comment. [Secretary’s Note: For purposes of these minutes, the testimony from the public has been excerpted from transcripts, edited, and summarized as set forth in italics.]

Georgina Kawamura, Director of Budget and Finance, explained the State’s involvement in the West Hawai’i project. She said that the Governor fully supports additional facilities being built in West Hawai’i. Budget & Finance has been requested to release $6.9 million for two campuses: $4.5 million for the East Hawai’i Komohana campus; and $2.4 million for a West Hawai’i campus.

Director Kawamura said she was informed that of the 500-acre parcel set aside for educational purposes in West Hawai’i, only 25 acres are to be developed into the West Hawai’i Community College. The remaining acres would be used for commercial development, which would fund the construction of the campus. If revenues exceed the cost of construction, the excess will be shared with East Hawai’i. According to Director Kawamura, the Governor was concerned that the West Hawai’i community had this information.

Regent Albano commented that the $4.5 million for planning also includes the Manono campus, as well as the Komohana campus. $2.4 million is for the West Hawai’i campus, and the reason for the lower figure is because the West Hawai’i campus is further along in its planning and design. Also, Hiluhilu is mandated by the zoning condition to contribute $20 million worth of improvement, which includes $5 million for a 20,000 square foot facility on UH land and the supporting infrastructure.

Regent Albano said that one of the things they are looking at is the full development of the 500 acres, but that’s only one alternative. The University has to look at all of its resources and determine how to monetize its lands to fund the public infrastructure before requesting for CIP money from the Legislature.

The monies asked to be released are to be used to look at how to construct the facility, how to lay it out on both campuses and, more importantly, how to finance the campuses. It could be through the use of public/private partnerships or total Legislative funding. Those are the issues that the planning and design study will do for the University.

Director Kawamura responded that all of the private funding does not stay in West Hawai’i. It’s shared, and that’s what the Governor wants the community to know.

President McClain commented that this has been a matter of public record since October of 2005.
Representative Josh Green:

“We have absolute need in West Hawai‘i and for that matter Big Island.... For that matter we have shortage both sides and that is important. If we allow ourselves to go down the road of east versus west... I can make you one guarantee, Big Island will get nothing and that is a reality.

...if we destroy our opportunity now, we will set ourselves back and I am very wary of that. I do want private investment to plunk down the $300 million campus. No question. With or without the State. The State is not always the answer obviously. But the only way we will get anything done is by working in a teamwork fashion on Big Island, also with the other Neighbor Islands, because they want their campuses.

If we decide to put things off because we are peeved, because we are just plain angry, O‘ahu will forget us and we will be here five years from now not with a 20,000 square foot build out, not with 77,000 feet on the way, we will be here with nothing, and that is not [what] we want.

Build out with the people who want to commit to big time resources for us. I will ask for the $20, the $30, the $40 million CIPs going forward.”

Representative Dwight Takamine:

“...there always is so much in terms of need. And it’s not only on the Big Island...it’s statewide and ultimately...it comes back to the Legislature because it’s for a public purpose and, therefore, those resources are really necessary, the sooner the better. But because these resources are limited...it takes a long time before you can develop all of the facilities and infrastructure...

And that’s why I appreciate and I wanted to acknowledge and thank the board for the task force, for the private/public partnership task force, that you developed and certainly to acknowledge Regent Albano for his leadership of that group... as Regent Albano said, you look internally at the resources that you can bring to the table before ultimately going to the Legislature to ask for whatever is necessary...

Clearly it puts us in a position where we can get to the goal sooner and in a more economic way because of the partnering and because of the potential tremendous resources that can be brought to the table to be matched or in partnership with the State, again, to make the facilities happen -- happen sooner so they can serve the needs of all of the students.

...during the past years we have learned that unity...is critically important in achieving goals successfully. And during the past two years ... through that kind of joint effort, through that kind of -- supporting one another and it didn't matter whether, you know, we were representing Kohala in North Hawai‘i or Kailua in South Hawai‘i or whether we were representing constituents from East Hawai‘i or West Hawai‘i. The key was by working together for the first time the Big Island was able to take home $400 million of capital improvement projects in a biennium cycle. Unprecedented. Clearly with the support of all of the O‘ahu
legislators, because as indicated by Josh they represent 80 percent of the vote. It’s with their understanding and support that that was put into place.

...under Chancellor Freitas, when this request came forward, the unity between the students, the faculty, the staff, the leadership, you know, of the Hawai‘i Community College ohana was very clear in all of our offices.

Because it’s always a matter of playing catchup. Without those magical sparks that tend to raise these projects, you know, above some of the others because it’s all competing for limited resources, good things don’t happen. It was an important part of bringing us to this point where now we are asking for the release of those funds so that we can begin doing some of the good things that was explained earlier so that we can get closer to the objectives.”

Chair Lagareta asked why Hawai‘i Community College and UH Hilo were divided into two separate campuses.

Dr. Trina Nahm-Mijo, faculty member at Hawai‘i CC, responded that it was a political decision. One positive outcome was that Hawai‘i CC got a bigger identity and a fully functioning community college status. But the negative outcome was the inadequate facilities. The liberal arts faculty are at UH Hilo campus. Half the trades are at UH Hilo, the other half remained at Manono. Everything had to be built from scratch, with no funds. The campus has been flat funded for 14 years.

Last year was the first time Hawai‘i CC received any increase in its budget for 14 years. Some renovation has been done, but it’s really falling down. There are 20-year-old portable buildings.

President McClain commented that the split may have had to do with mission differentiation. Hawai‘i Community College has a community college mission and accreditors. Four-year campuses have different missions and different accreditors. Those two missions were mixed and they needed to be separated and clarified to fulfill each mission.

Angel Pilago, Hawai‘i County Council Vice Chair:

“I...originally thought West Hawai‘i money should come to West Hawai‘i, but after listening to Josh and Dwight and others and taking in the mood and feel of our island community, I've come to quickly change my opinion in that we do need to advocate for our whole perspective...we do need to cooperate and partner and get everything we can for the well being of our Island as a whole.

...I wish to express to the Regents that we sorely and dearly need your support. We are supporting you at the council and from the community's point of view in that we are taking care as best as we can the infrastructure needs of our community.

We are looking to the mid level roads, official northern end will end at the University so it will go from Keauhou all the way to the University and that's part of the social demographics that we project within our Island in the next 20 years. Alongside of those highway and roadway infrastructure are utility lines, sewage, and our water. This is our kuleana. This is what we are offering to you.
The University presents a critical aspect for the institutionalization and the bettering of the quality of life for our people, not only in West Hawai'i but island wide, and that's what we need your support. We are here, Hawai'i Island, poised to take a responsible place in leadership of Hawai'i and we, in a small way, are helping make these things happen. We will be building the West Hawai'i Civic Center and that's, again, to share responsibilities with Hilo. It will be situated near this University site. We will be building the new courthouse there and a new hospital here, and if things work out, we will be working with Hawaiian Homes on the Civic Center, the community center that integrates a consortium of social services providers, all within context and proximity of this University. The institutionalization and the sustainability we speak of must be driven from the community, but must be done in cooperation with your help and your assistance. This is not done in a vacuum. It's well thought out. We ask for your kokua, your support, to make these things a reality.

The plea earlier is let's not go to the East vs. West Hawai'i debate again. I believe you can help us rise above that, set a higher standard for all of us, using Hawai'i Island as a model of that and there from raising the standards of our State community. We do encourage you and we give our support to you. Please support us in this endeavor.

Art Souza, District Superintendent of Schools in West Hawai'i:

"I'm here fully to support the concept of the need for construction of at least a two-year campus with a buildout of a four-year school.

...Currently the students of West Hawai'i are indeed limited in their ability to access higher education right here in their community. The establishment of the permanent campus would not only create this opportunity but more importantly I think would establish West Hawai'i as a learning destination. The opportunities are enormous when consideration is given to the high tech science infrastructure that's already starting to emerge in West Hawai'i. In tandem with that we are looking at attaching a magnet school to focus on science, math and technologies in West Hawai'i tied to this campus. So it would be a wonderful partnership for the Department of Education and higher education.

The demographics that the Department of Education wants to share with you on the matter indicate that there is going to be tremendous educational and student growth, in our communities. Waikoloa Village itself is slated for two new schools within the next eight years. The new high school that's targeted will be constructed in West Hawai'i to relieve the overflow at the Kealakehe High School campus.

...The Department of Education and the students and citizens of our West Hawai'i community fully support the establishment of education for our future. I know the founding principles for us in the Department of Education in West Hawai'i is that our educational mission simply stated is to give kids hope, to have kids think differently and to provide opportunity. What better way to do it than the creation of this campus? We believe that education is indeed wellness and we hope that yourselves, our Governor and the state legislators will support our vision for learning for our kids in the community."
Paul Heerlein, Coordinator of the UH West Hawai‘i Food Service Program:

“With a larger centrally located culinary facility, we could collaborate more with industry leaders. We could properly instruct, educate and train our culinary students. This will provide a skilled workforce for small businesses, hotels. The local industry is in a great need for graduates of this nature…

Currently our first year students go to school Monday, Wednesday and Friday, our second year students go to school Tuesday and Thursday all day long, because of limited space …

With a larger culinary facility, we could fulfill our culinary vision, which is to be recognized as a leading culinary arts school in the Pacific. And we would also like to live up to and fulfill our Hawai‘i Community College vision statement, which is the students will become productive and engaged citizens, capable of meeting the complex challenges of a global community…”

William Cliff, President of the Rotary Club of Kona:

“…the Rotary Club of Kona work(s) very, very extensively with the young people in the community.

…so speaking on behalf of the rotarians and all of the work and the feedback we receive from students and parents, everybody knows that the growth engine in the private sector is obviously in West Hawai‘i right now. Whatever the plan is or however the resources are being allocated we are very strongly in favor that it must eventually lead to a four-year residential facility of some sort of in West Hawai‘i’….”

Ann Kern, Instructor at the UH Center:

“I beg you please help us establish a permanent autonomous University of Hawai‘i presence on this side of the Big Island….approve our partnership with Palamanui, they’re a private development managed by individuals who have stood by us when everybody else abandoned us….put pressure on people in power to provide funds for planning and construction of complementary facilities for us on the State land adjacent to Palamanui.

…make us fiscally and administratively independent, separating our fate from the other side of the Island….If you build it, our students will come in ever increasing numbers, and our community will celebrate.”

Jane Sherwood, Associate Professor of Nursing:

“…we have reached a limit of what we can do for our students. We have reached our absolute capacity in terms of student numbers. The Division of Nursing has long operated an outreach program to students, both in east and west Hawai‘i and the faculty meet regularly to ensure that all students receive the same quality educational content.

…Present classrooms at both sites are crowded…Classrooms also need to be electronically sophisticated in order to use faculty at each site to teach the classes on both sides of the Island. The shortage of qualified nursing faculty make this an imperative, but present classrooms do not allow for expansion.
…For this Island community with its diverse geography, distant communities, and varied concerns and interests, education should be a mitigating force that fosters tolerance, understanding, communication and an ability to work together. The island of Hawai‘i Community College is the institution that can make that happen.

So the Division of Nursing at Hawai‘i Community College respectfully asks that you consider the needs of both sides of the Island as you move forward in developing permanent facilities.”

Debbie Baker:

“…A University Center in West Hawai‘i is a good first step, but it's only a first step. A four-year university in Kona would serve our region well. It would transform our workforce, it would attract highly skilled jobs that would help us transition from a service economy to a more modern skilled and diverse economy. Parents would see a better future for their children.

…Position UH Kona within your strategic plan and allow our community to help you ramp up the master plan at warp speed….25 acres is not enough for our community’s vision…200 acres…would seem appropriate here. We agree that a… public/private partnership is necessary, but we need to expand that vision beyond 25 acres. Let us not be restricted by a reverse economy of scale.

…I urge your consideration and support of UH Kona four-year residential campus and I urge you to accelerate this plan and move it forward immediately.”

Christina Hoffman, Biology Instructor:

“…we have a really wonderful island laboratory here and there’s so much that could be expanded in science, and I don't think we have to compete with East Hawai‘i because the Island is big enough.

…in West Hawai‘i, for example, we could start marine biology…. I've seen the Kohala center which is located in Waimea. They bring in students from Cornell, Dartmouth, to study our Island. Why aren't we doing that with our students more?

…In science there’s two words that we use often. One of them is symbiosis, which is mutually beneficial relationship, and I urge that we try to look at the bigger picture and not fight east versus west. And the other word is synergy. I think if we work together we can accelerate the process and move faster on track.”

Ross Wilson:

“I envision a full service university in West Hawai‘i on 500 acres with divisions specializing in ocean science, ocean studies, astronomy, geo science, travel industry management and tropical agriculture.

…I and many members of the Kona community support a larger vision for the 500-acre parcel than is currently envisioned….My vision is an integrated campus incorporating shared infrastructure for a community college presence
and a four-year University of Hawai‘i Kona. I imagine that this could be incorporated over time and in phases and I am hopeful that you will share this vision and incorporate it into your long term strategic plan.

I support the concept of public/private partnerships and believe that the model that you're working with for a UH West O'ahu is a good one to follow for Kona. The Kona community would like to help you in this process and is poised to partner with the University of Hawai‘i in these efforts. I hope that you will consider a dialogue with the community on a vision for the 500 acres that includes a community college and ultimately a four-year University of Hawai‘i Kona."

President McClain explained that there are important differences between UH West O'ahu and the West Hawai‘i plans, even though the acreage is similar. The land in West O'ahu is owned by the University. The land in Kona is owned by the State. Although it’s been earmarked for the University, it has not been transferred through an executive order from the State to the University. In addition, it's ceded lands, which places certain constraints on what's possible.

The President said that just because the University is starting on a 25-acre parcel does not mean that the developers won't be planning for something much more significant that would involve commercial, residential as well as a larger campus than 25 acres. The University is in that dialogue and if the planning funds can get released, those options can be determined.

Billy Bergin, Emeritus Regent:

“…The community of Kona is noted for its independence, noted for its industrious nature, you could have opinions that could be divided between north and south Kona, mauka and makai and other demographics. But when the collective decision came down to choosing the location that was chosen, I have never seen such a diverse and independent community agree so unanimously on one single thing, so I do like that part of history that meant that a community came together more than 15 or 20 years ago to say this is where we want our university to be.

…I think 500 acres, given the ceded status, will not be a large parcel in the context of how this community is growing.

...Regent Emeritus David Ramos...and I...support the need to move forward, the need for the Regents to find the resolve, the strength, the direction and the heart to go ahead and move forward very strongly.

...David and I clearly understand the conscience that has to be held by each regent when, in fact, your responsibility is statewide. It's to Lana‘i, it's to Moloka‘i, it's to Hana, and we understand that, but given the data, given the history, given the intensity of growth in this community, David and I ask that you support the West Hawai‘i venture.”

Chair Lagareta commented that the Regents received and were reading testimonies from 40 others who were not present at this meeting.

She asked President McClain to recap what this Board has approved, what previous boards had approved, and the current status of the planning.
President McClain explained that in 2004, the Legislature approved $18 million for planning, design and initial infrastructure for the Komohana campus, but that was changed in ‘05 to focus on both West and East Hawai‘i. This Board in 2005 approved a public/private partnership with a developer which would take those 500 acres in Kona that are still State land, and allow development on those acres that would create a campus structure, some residential, some commercial, and generate excess profits that would be used to cross subsidize and also build the Komohana campus on the east side replacing the Manono campus.

The Palamanui development has had a long relationship with the University. The proposal would be 20,000 square feet now on the State land, that used to be on the Palamanui land. The condition of their zoning is that they put in place a facility and they commit $5 million to creating that facility.

The University’s believes it is now appropriate for the Governor to release these planning funds. But the Governor has raised a question that should be addressed: What about using the assets on the west side to build up the east side? That's really an important issue for getting these funds released. If there’s a lot of resistance to the cross subsidization concept, the University will see if it can do things some other way.

Regent Albano expressed that the planning design will allow an assessment of all campuses to determine what revenues can be derived from the development of these campuses. For instance, the Komohana campus is 122 acres. Not all 122 acres will be used for the new campus. Part of it will be an urban village to monetize the property to help build the infrastructure. There is also the Manono campus. So the question is which side will be subsidizing which side. He asked the public to allow the Board to go forward with the planning to see what that looks like.

Releasing the planning and design money allows the Board to assess the University’s ability to fund maybe not all of these facilities but to at least partially minimize the need for capital funding from the Legislature.

Chair Lagareta added that the Board has already approved all the steps needed at this time. There's no vote today.

The Board is looking out for the entire State. Right now the need is in West O‘ahu and in West Hawai‘i. The Board was in Kona to hear and discuss. The answer is not west side against east side, and that's an important concern the Board needs to hear from the community.

Regent Hapai added that the last input obtained from this area collectively was in 1998, so the Board wanted to ensure that the most current needs are being addressed.
Mark McGuffie, Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Island Economic Development Board:

“...So in order to escalate, we need that public/private partnership. If that is the case, then what is required is for Governor Lingle, presumably it could be done during her administration, to sign an executive order to transfer it. That's action point number 1.

The second thing -- which is what you're doing, which I'm very pleased and thankful for you coming here as Marlene just pointed out, the last time was 1998 -- is to update the plan. The information that you shared this morning, the demographics, the makeup, the needs, I noticed that the population mix was based on the last census, which happens to be 2000, which was seven years ago. A lot has changed in Kona in seven years since that, and I would say without too much doubt that those numbers are going to be stronger.

...I've been approached recently under the HIEDB for a very, very exciting high tech clean industry to come to our island. That projection is to have 4,000 people employed within five years, so my first question to this fellow is where are you getting these 4,000 highly qualified people from? ...this is a very exciting dimension to the attraction of our islands as a whole.

...in order to supply a skilled workforce we need the full education pipeline expanded. And so to me it's critical that we get some action moving this year and I implore this body has the ability to do so.”

Chair Lagareta commented that in the last few years, campuses across the nation and in Hawai‘i have looked at public/private partnerships and discovered that even after they’re approved, it takes anywhere from months to a year or possibly longer, to actually negotiate the terms of the contract. The Board is anxious to proceed on this because, once approved, it still takes time to go through the process of getting the development going. The Board is trying to do something that's innovative for campuses all across the country. It's new, it's not easy and it takes some time.

Mr. McGuffie responded that to attract private partnership, you need to have a vision and plans to show private industry, the private investment opportunities.

Donnalyn Kalei, Faculty at Hawai‘i Community College:

“...I'm an alumni of Hawai‘i Community College class of 1994. I'm actually an alumni as a student rep to the Board of Regents serving 1993 to 1994...And I am a faculty at Hawai‘i Community College...

...Hilo campus and West Hawai‘i, it is a partnership.

...Hawai‘i Community College works very closely with the County of Hawai‘i. So it's not about east and west. This is about Big Island.

...what we have in our vision for the Big Island round table is that we want to be a model for the nation, to show the nation that as a community -- a rural
community, the Big Island, east and west, that we can come together and work together.

...we have close relationships not only politically but in the human services, in public safety, in DOE, in Department of Health. We all in the same room. We are all looking at how can we partner together, look at the resources that we have very few on this Island and work together. No task is too big when done together by all.

...people are saying, oh, Hilo is going to take resources from west. No, it's not about that. It's about us and it's Hawaiian. This is about Hawai'i. We share. That is Hawaiian. Because together we can do it.

...We have to come together as an island because a lot of times we have forgotten because we stay way down south. Same thing like Kaua'i. We have got to help Kaua'i, too, because they have naught.

...We are all on the same Island.”

Regent Dahilig asked if information was available on how revenues throughout the system are derived by what campus and when they'll be redistributed again.

President McClain replied that all the campuses keep all their tuition. Individual campuses are entitled to a portion of their return of overhead funds on their research and training grants. All that money comes to the System office, which takes 25 percent for systemwide things such as the Internet and other infrastructure that benefits everyone, then 75 percent is given to the campuses. Chancellors who receive that money can use it on their campuses. Any funds donated to a campus stays on that campus.

Those are the main revenue sources. There's also auxiliary services on some campuses, such as book stores. Those funds generally stay on the campuses.

Regent Dahilig asked if overhead that comes to the system gets redistributed across the system, even though the majority may be derived from one campus, which was confirmed by the President. Regent Dahilig summed by stating that there's a sharing across all ten campus.

Dr. Barbara Leonard, Chair of the UH Hilo Faculty Congress:

“...we decided to poll our faculty and see if there was an interest in offering more programs to West Hawai'i....

...The first question is: Do you, as a member of the UH Hilo faculty, in general feel that UH Hilo has an obligation to provide educational programs to West Hawai'i and other under-served districts of the Island? 88 percent yes.

The second question: Given additional budgetary commitments from the UH System, do you support expanded program offers in West Hawai'i? 91 percent said yes.
...So I just want to share with you that, yes, we agree that we are one Island and we agree that we really feel like we have an obligation to be offering more services over here.

The only thing that's holding us back is money....When we were offering programs over here, faculty were being compensated for gas and for their time to spend the night, because usually there were night classes and it's very dangerous sometimes to drive home at night over the mountain. For some reason those funds were withdrawn. Faculty were told they had to pay their own way and drive home at night. Faculty just said, you know, it's not worth my life to do that. So I do applaud you for being willing to do that, but you understand the need to spend the night here once in a while.

...let me just share with you a couple of comments by the faculty to underscore this point. 'I definitely think that UH should find a way to serve West Hawai’i. I'm not sure whether the best way to do that is via UH Hilo or through a new campus. At this point unless more resources are provided I do not see how we can operate effectively on both sides of the Island.'

Another comment: ‘Depends on whether the funds are adequate to allow us to offer quality programs without taking away from our undergraduate programs on the campus here in Hilo. We need to be sensitive to the efforts of Hawai’i Community College in West Hawai’i. It would not be to anyone's benefit for them to perceive our interest in West Hawai’i as an attempt to take over their turf. A partnership over there makes good sense.’

The issue is UH Hilo at Kona. We thought that doesn't really reflect, you know, maybe everyone's best interest. But the idea is that we should have a university on this Island that serves the entire population, and we are in favor of a two-plus-two partnership, the community college offering the first two years and associate degrees and UH Hilo coming in to offer baccalaureate and professional programs. ....Over 90 percent of the faculty want to come over here and do this. Let's do it."

President McClain provided the following data. In 1998 Hawai’i Community College offered courses that led to 55 degrees and certificates; the other degrees and certificates that were offered out of the University Center totaled 17. All were offered by UH Hilo; it did all the degrees and certificates. In 2006, however, no degrees and certificates were the result of any courses offered by UH Hilo. Seven were the result of courses offered by West O'ahu and 29 were the result of courses offered by UH Mānoa.

Mānoa, Hilo, West O‘ahu all face the same set of incentives to offer courses to students on this side of the Island. Mānoa has stepped up aggressively, West O‘ahu as well, but Hilo is not represented. They all face the same incentives. This is largely a campus decision. The next place the Second Decade Project will look at are the University Centers to see how they need to be supported, because there's a growing need throughout the Islands for the baccalaureate campuses to deliver their services to more regions.
Shanti Devi, UH West Hawai‘i Lecturer:

“…The whole system model works, and we have been doing that as an education center. So where was UH Hilo all this time? I don’t understand why they all of the sudden are so interested in us.

... Who is going to administer this West Hawai‘i campus? ...What is the private/public partnership? Is it with Hiluhilu Development or is it with Hawai‘i Campus Developers?”

President McClain responded that the public/private partnership that the Board has chosen to negotiate with is the Hawai‘i Campus Developers. The relationship with Palamanui and Hiluhilu is an additional relationship that’s been in place for some time.

“...if this does not work out, if the Governor does not release these funds and so the planning can’t go ahead with the public monies that are available, then Hiluhilu will still perform and we’ll still have the 20,000 square foot building; is that correct?”

President McClain said that if Hiluhilu wishes to do the Palamanui Development, they have to perform, as required by the Hawai‘i County Council. The current plans are that the new campus would be administered by Hawai‘i Community College.

Nalani Aiwohi, Student Government President of Hawai‘i Community College:

“...We are here to support each other to ensure that Hawai‘i has the appropriate and adequate facilities available for them for education. My sisters and brothers in Kona deserve a campus. They deserve a college that they can call home. Hilo deserves a campus, we deserve a college that we can call home. ...And you know, presently we don't have adequate space to house all the programs that we currently share. You might be concerned for us, but I want you to know that West Hawai‘i doesn't even have a caucus representative to stand for its school. I talked to a young girl who is very interested in being a caucus representative, but she said, you know what I don't have a school to represent, I don't have anybody to talk to about it. What am I supposed to represent? I tried to encourage her and tell her that you are the very, very voice that President McClain needs to hear. You're the very story that Governor Lingle needs to hear. We are here today to support us, all of this Island, it's all about unity.”

Vivian Landrum, Executive Director of the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce:

“...recently our Chamber membership voted overwhelmingly to support the vision of the University of Hawai‘i in West Hawai‘i situated on the 500-acre campus.... The Chamber urges the Board of Regents to update your strategic plan to include a West Hawai‘i Community College and a four-year university. To relocate the current West Hawai‘i Center from Kealakekua as soon as possible to create a community college capable of transitioning to a four-year educational
facility and, yes, to create a four-year residential university all operating in
tandem with East Hawai‘i.

The Chamber would like to offer our full participation to assist the
University in expediting the plans for the shared vision. In fact, just Wednesday
our board of directors approved the creation of a Chamber task force working in
collaboration with Mark McGuffie and HIEDB to help us all work towards this
goal. We know the potential benefits of knowledge via education are
inexhaustible. Knowledge has become the economy’s most important and
dynamic resource. Bringing about positive change on our Island is the charge of
all of us. We need to ensure that the lives of our future generations can be better
than the last.

...Tomorrow’s Big Island will be shaped by the actions of this
group....Let's make it happen together.”

Jet Heng, Hawai‘i Community College Student:

“...Today I'm asking the BOR to continue advocating for the release of Act
160 and 120 funds....The new campuses will provide abundant opportunities for
many local students. Every public school graduate deserves a chance to study at
Hawai‘i Community College.

Our faculty and staff are very compassionate of helping students to
become a more productive citizen to this community. They were the wonderful
people who taught me a great deal in life. This is why I am committed to fight for
the betterment of the Big Island’s future. The students graduating from HCC are
the backbone of our workforce in this vibrant economy. This $18.2 million
investment is the key to ensure a diversified quality college education for the
residents and to help reduce our negative social costs. Please help us now.”

David Myrick:

“Quite frankly, I’m a little annoyed at the meeting. You were sent here
because the Governor withheld funds, so you tell the people of West Hawai‘i
what you’re planning on doing. But yet people are bussing in from East Hawai‘i
so you can hear what residents of West Hawai‘i have to say. And we listen all
day long to legislators. In fact, that’s not the residents of West Hawai‘i. You give
very little notice to the meeting today. Very little. And you hold the meeting when
most people can’t be here.

...Do we want you spending money allocated for West Hawai‘i on East
Hawai‘i? No. Do we want houses, development here so you can spend it in East
Hawai‘i? No. That happens all the time.

...We have no idea what you’re up to, because you don’t disclose it. You
don’t provide information.”

President McClain responded that the meeting was posted on the
University’s web site. Mr. Myrick countered that notice should have been
published in the local paper, to which President McClain replied that it’s the
paper’s decision to cover the story.
Regent Albano asked if funding from other parts of the State are taken to benefit West Hawai’i. Mr. Myrick confirmed. Regent Albano asked if the resources of West Hawai’i should stay in West Hawai’i, which Mr. Myrick again confirmed. Regent Albano then asked Mr. Myrick to explain why it's acceptable for West Hawai’i to take funds from other parts of the State but not acceptable for West Hawai’i to share its resources with other parts. Mr. Myrick responded:

“What I want you to do is be honest when you ask, and if you say up front, I'm going to spend this money in West Hawai’i, then you have an obligation to the public to spend it the way you said you were going to.

Now, if you're going to say up front when you ask for the money, I'm going to spend this portion here and this portion there, that's fair and honest. But don’t say, well, we are going to do this for West Hawai’i, but underhanded take it away. That's wrong.”

President McClain stated that all of this was made evident at the Board’s October 21, 2005 public meeting.

Chair Lagareta explained that what the University has asked for is planning money. No other definite plans than that have been made. The University has a strategic plan, it wants to serve East Hawai’i and West Hawai’i, as well as the rest of State, and it has asked for planning money to determine how to do that. One of the things that will be examined is public/private partnership, but as yet the Board has not approved any plans for development.

**Donna Madrid, Rural Development Project:**

“...I graduated as an alumni from both Hawai’i CC and UH Hilo....I was very active in student government on Hawai’i CC. It started back in 1993. I was a mother with three children, a 10-year-old, a 14-year-old and a 15-year-old and I am living proof that the nurturing that I got from Hawai’i Community College to go up into the community and touch folks and sustain economic and build up programs is real dear and close to my heart.

...when we were student caucus members, we were asked, please, let's all join together and help Kapi'olani get their campus. Hawai'i CC students said okay. Let’s all come together because Kapolei and West O‘ahu needed more focus and more unity as far as the students were concerned in that area. Again, Hawai’i CC and UH Hilo caucus representatives and student reps of the Board of Regents again stepped up and said okay, we will do it for West O‘ahu.

It is our time. The suffering is too long....

...With the growth in Kona I don’t think it’s a realistic expectation for the Governor to expect us to kuniai our funds when we have experts in the room saying long term plans of DOE in the next eight years, two new schools in Waikoloa. Those funds, yeah, we can go in and we are going to say, okay, we will share it. But, you know, when the time comes West Hawai’i is going to need every penny of it, because the growth is just phenomenal.

Now, I ask -- I ask the Governor's office and I ask the Board of Regents to please work together so we can come to a reasonable compromise so we don't have to coexist.”
Aka Mahi:

"Now, we like what we are going to have campus, a place where the students going to come from neighbor island to go to the college. We need all that, too.

...Let's all of us here is, you know, I want to see the university go up, enough talking already. And please make some affordable houses so our people here can live here instead of going somewhere else."

Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, Instructor Coordinator of the Hawaiian Lifestyles Hula Program:

"...there's no place on the West Hawai'i existing campus to hold a program like ours. So if it weren't for the students themselves who find us places in the community where we can go and conduct our classes and involve their families and the greater community, then our program wouldn't be able to exist.

...the West Hawai'i Center as it sits as a distance learning facility is not satisfactory for the education of native Hawaiians in particular. We know that native Hawaiian families as well as other low income families rarely have access to technology in their homes. They rarely have access in many of our rural communities still to wideband links or telecommunications like DSL. I taught distance tech -- using distance technologies for over three years teaching Hawaiian history as well as Hawaiian studies and it hurt me to see that it was usually our native Hawaiian students who fell behind. They need to be in an experiential classroom setting one on one with their teachers and you need to be able to look many of our students in the eye so that you can tell whether they're with you or not.

...please, look at expansion into a two-year and then eventually a four-year campus and graduate programs. And I want you to know that the graduate programs that are available in West Hawai'i Center right now aren't even really available for us on the east side. ...perhaps the community Islandwide just simply doesn't understand the function of the Center, so perhaps there is that kind of effort for education in the community so that more and more people know what is available to them right now.

...It's very difficult as I'm working with them (hula students) right now to help them even achieve an AA degree when they're working people. Those -- many of the base core classes are only available during the day, they're not available in the evenings, they're not available on the weekends and they're not even available online.

...The pockets of students and community that needs education is well beyond just the two campuses. You know, we need to reach further into our communities to really provide that world class education."

Regent Tatibouet moved to recess, seconded by Regent Dahilig. The motion was carried, and the meeting was recessed at 4:03 p.m., and reconvened at 4:23 p.m.
Mike Reimer:

“...I’m in favor of it starting as a two-year school, expanding to a four-year school. My vision of it would be to even provide educational opportunities for the entire Pacific basin through distance learning.

…I think last November’s election was the first time that we could almost make that a milestone in which the voters have said we want -- we want that unity. We want to be one.

…Kona has for too long felt it has been the cash cow for the rest of the Island. And I want to assure you from my standpoint, from what I see, don’t let that dissuade you, the negative aspects of it, that we are in unity….Do everything you can to not let anybody dissuade you, and that it passes.”

Thomas Fine, Sr., Kona Palisades Community Association:

“...we really don’t want to see any funds that have been allocated to building a West Hawai’i campus be diverted somewhere else. We want our campus, and if there’s any slough, let go to East Hawai’i. We don’t want a division between east and west. We are one Island. But we do want our campus.

…we got the impression that our funds were going somewhere else and we weren’t going to get our campus and that makes us angry.

…Hiluhilu Joint Venture came before our association and presented this plan...And now we are afraid that maybe this plan is being changed and it’s going to negatively impact the community.”

Chair Lagareta explained that right now there are no funds. The University is trying to get the funds released to do planning. The State doesn’t have the funds to support even one of these campuses right now. The University would like to find a way to do both of them as soon as possible, and one way would be commercial development. No money has been spent. Nothing has been diverted.

Regent Albano said that for years, there was no infrastructure that would support a West Hawai’i facility. When Hiluhilu did their development and with the wisdom of the County Council they put conditions in the zoning request that those developers would build a 20,000 square foot facility for the University of Hawai’i for $5 million. In addition, build a middle road that connects to the Hiluhilu project to ease traffic. They would provide sufficient infrastructure to support the construction of a West Hawai’i facility. That was what was missing all these years, and that was one of the biggest reasons it never moved forward from the time the plans were developed for the West Hawai’i Center to today.

Andy Archibald:

“More than two-thirds of the people on this Island live outside of Hilo. More than two-thirds of the taxes raised on this Island are raised outside of Hilo. More than two thirds of all the taxes paid to the State come from outside of Hilo, and whereas Hawai’i is not really part of the United States, the Island of Hawai’i is
really not part of the State of Hawai‘i and for several decades Kona has not been part of the Island of Hawai‘i.

…we suffer a lack of infrastructure…

Perception here when the folks hear that 500 acres has been devoted to a college and you already plan to use more than half of it for something else strikes a bell, it’s a cord, it resonates. We have heard this before. And when a certain amount of money is dedicated for the West Hawai‘i campus and already two-thirds of it is going someplace else, all we can say is here we go again.

So your sales job is to educate the people in West Hawai‘i on the importance of cooperating with you to get the money released at least to start. You know, we here on the west side have absolutely nothing, our children have nothing. …there are several thousand children on this Island who are about to graduate into a vacuum.”

Rell Woodward:

“…I do have some concerns and I think the concerns are some of the concerns that the Governor has, and that is, the issue of fairness. …We generate about 70 percent -- Kona about 70 percent of the tax revenue, and a good percentage of that is spent on the other side of the Island, so we are always a little bit leery when we hear about a proposal to put something here and then spend it on the east side.

And the other problem that I see and I think the reason that you are here is there has been a problem with communicating. That is, yes, it may have been part of the public record, but I would venture to say that most of us rarely visit your web site. So having it publicly available and making it disseminated are two entirely different things.

…this meeting was very poorly publicized here in the area that it was destined to serve. …you need to communicate with the people of West Hawai‘i. And while you may make the information public, you have not disseminated it. You need to get it to us.

And if you do come up with a plan, people are willing to listen, but they need to know what the plan is and I think the perception is that this was sort of done behind our backs. And if it hadn't been for that perception, you may not be here today. But it's good you are here. After nine years it's about time.”

Kuu Makuakane-Salaveda:

“I'm here to support a campus on West Hawai‘i. …I'm from the east. I live in the east, but I support the west.”

Liz Zagorarodney, Executive Director of the American Cancer Society-West Hawai‘i:

“This community I will tell you gives a higher per capita amount to the American Cancer Society than almost any other in the nation. This is not a selfish community. This is a generous community. This is a community that steps up to the plate day after day after day, and I see it with my own eyes. So please
understand as we stand here and say to you we want our campus, we are not being selfish. We are not saying we don't want to share with Hilo. We are not saying that this is not one Island. It is one Island.

We want our university. We want our two-year school. We want continuing education. We want programs. As the Executive Director of the American Cancer Society, we are in a health care crisis, and I know you've heard this before, if we do not educate these young people, if we do not light a fire under them, then the people in this community will not have caregivers. We won't have them. So this is not something to be considered 15 more years from now. We need it now. And the fact that the community college has put together a nursing program and has started it in spite of the lack of space and lack of funding, that is amazing.

We need classrooms. We need facilities. We need to get a place to gather. We will fill the classes if you give us a community place to gather and teach."

Doodie Downs, Hawai'i Community College:

"I keep hearing outside and -- in the audience and throughout this past two weeks, well, we have been preparing for this meeting. Why are they here? Why is East Hawai'i here when this is a West Hawai'i thing?

...We are here because when we say that we are one Island, and we are part of this, we really are. We feel it down to our very core, so it hurts us, it really hurts us when we read in the newspaper and when we hear people sitting here questioning why we would be here, because we don't question it at all. We believe we should be here, because we believe that you should have a campus and we don't care if you have your campus first and we don't care if your campus is bigger and we don't care if your campus is a four-year university before ours is built. You deserve that, because you are our family.

...it's very important for us to hear what you have to say, because you're our family and we want to understand why there is so much animosity in this subject. It hurts us. It really pains us to hear this.

But I would like to point out that the students of the East Hawai'i campus are not just residents of that side of the Island, but they're from all over this Island. They commute or they move in order to meet their educational goals...and it's ridiculous to believe that only West Hawai'i people could possibly support a campus for the west side. We are all Big Islanders. We will all benefit from two campuses. ...West Hawai'i people they deserve a proper facility in an accessible and convenient location. They deserve a campus that is solely their own and not part of a rented shopping complex. They deserve larger classrooms and better technology. They deserve more faculty and staff. They deserve to have a campus large enough to allow them to offer more programs and services to the people of West Hawai'i.

I want to say this, I understood earlier today that, you know, the priority is Leeward O'ahu and, you know, they do have a need, but they also have choices. They have four community college campuses to choose from. They have two universities to choose from, and they have numerous private institutions to choose from, and you can drive around the island of O'ahu in one hour, but here we have to drive two hours and 45 minutes to go to school if we want to. So
our choices are limited. So please tell Governor Lingle to help us help our community. We all are Hawai'i.

When she was sworn in the first time and she was sworn in again the second time she promised to help all Hawai'i's people. Ask her not to forget the people of Hawai'i Island."

Walter Kunitake, first Director of the West Hawai'i Center:

"President McClain, you presented a very good outline of the needs, Wai'anae being the highest and West Hawai'i being next. I was thinking to myself that's true, but accessibility by the Wai'anae folks is just a drive down the road to Leeward. Here in West Hawai'i it's a long drive. So I think the comparison is not exactly equal in terms of distance. The importance of the distance is a critical area.

...there were several reasons why the site was selected. One, large area; secondly, distance between Kohala and Miloli'i, and maybe part of Hawai'i is driving distance, was a consideration, because when classes were held at Kealakehe School before we went to Kealakekua, there were a lot of people from Kohala driving to classes. Once we moved to Kealakekua those people were gone; too far. So the location was a very important location from a distance standpoint.

Another consideration was pointed out (in) Statewide System and Beyond, a Master Plan for the University of Hawai'i by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, and the date of this one is January 1991: 'West Hawai'i appears to offer a choice neighbor island locale for the placement of research facilities...astronomy has succeeded on Mauna Kea. Ocean and earth sciences may duplicate in West Hawai'i by forming an international research consortium.'

If we located our campus to Keahole, the 500 acres, your enrollment is going to be up just automatically by distance, proper distance.

...because of the location and other things, we haven't moved. In fact, our enrollment was around 600 students for about three years in the last three years of my administration, and then it went down and it's still going down, unfortunately. So what's the answer?

I think we need to move location as soon as possible. Number two, is who's going to administer this, because I think, Chair, you asked the question earlier why didn't they separate. My own observations why they separated. ...partly was that the faculty at the four-year campus sometime don't think two-year campus faculties are up to their level and that campus feeling went the other way that why don't I get respect? ...There is human interaction. And whether you -- you know, you balance out the economics, the needs, the campus, but there is this human factor about community college faculty and the relationship with other faculties and you need to figure out how to balance this out.

...any planning on this 500 acres please incorporate as many different sectors of West Hawai'i so that, yes, because that, I think, is really important.

...I would not only encourage what Mark McGuffie stated and transfer the land to the University but go for the 450 acres that's above that property for the University, because 950 acres is not going to be too big in 150 years."
Colin Love, former Juvenile Court Judge:

“The physical plant of a college or a university, the bricks, the rock, the concrete are a symbol. They’re a symbol of hope, particularly to young people.

You talk to a 7-year-old kid who’s failing math, failing most of his classes, got a single mom, if he lives here in West Hawai‘i, he’s not going to college. So why tell him that if you study math now you get to be an engineer and make $70,000 a year, you buy a car, you know. Why tell him that? Because he has no hope. It's not going to happen.

So I urge you to do everything you can to get that symbol of hope up on the hill for the little ones.

Now, as to your question about funds generated from the college or university property here, whether they're excess funds, however they are generated, they should be used elsewhere. Hey, after you've got ours built out, funded, properly staffed, you do what you want with the rest of the money.”

Virginia Isbell, former Legislator:

“In the '70s the community wanted some kind of higher education in Kona and the answer was adult education. …We wanted real higher education and the community group invited the University Without Walls from the mainland to give a presentation to our community.

The outcome is that Kona was finally going to get some college presence and it was truly a University Without Walls. It was in the Keauhou Beach Hotel and we had three classrooms and a couple of instructors started teaching. That was the beginning of our university system. It wasn't even a college.

After a few years Andy Levin and I were elected to the House of Representative where I served for 16 years and worked together to get a temporary college campus for Kona. We found a willing landowner in Kealakekua who was assured that if he built the structures for classrooms and an office the University System would utilize them for at least five to ten years and that's how we got our campus. …They were intended to be small business offices after the University built a permanent campus and here we are again. We still don't have a campus. We are here today and that permanent campus is still a dream and one that we in this community have had for over 35 years.

This small campus has done some marvelous things, including have one of the best producers of master chefs in the country. The hotel industry has benefited greatly from that. There's a nursing program that is much needed here, but did you know that the two-year program is only offered every other year. So if you want to be a nurse, you have to go to Hilo or wait out a year. Our local Kona Community Hospital is begging for nurses and the hospital auxiliary provides scholarships, but no place to go.

A group of local residents worked long and hard to bring a full on college campus to Kona…So we were able to get a 1,000 acre large block of land above then Keahole Kona Airport for a college campus. Following that a few years ago the State gifted several parcels of State land to the Department of Hawaiian
Homelands and that piece was partially blocked off for DHHL and the 500-acre piece is the one that we are talking about today that's a campus for West Hawai‘i and that is where we are now: Still waiting, still needing, still wanting a college campus for West Hawai‘i.

This will not be a campus that will duplicate what is offered in Hilo, though there is a constant apprehension that this will affect Hilo's campus. Just makai of the 500-acre parcel is the Natural Energy Lab of Hawai‘i that has unique activities and opportunities for new technology, including electricity powered by ocean energy conversion that's offered nowhere else.

Kona is in need of a new second hospital for the growing population north. Is it possible that this could also be part of the 500-acre campus? We already have a piece from the Queen Lili‘uokalani Trust that's free, the State has never taken us up on it, but you know what, this might be one the things you could put in that place. The acreage is yours to make the best use for a future college campus in West Hawai‘i. We would ask that you work with us in the community so that we share a vision that will be a positive force in building our future for the young people here and for those who move here with a desire to improve their educational skills.

We invite you to work with us and raise your vision to what can and will be one of the finest college and university campuses in the world and we believe, too, that we can work together.”

Luna Hauanio:

“‘I'm a Hilo boy. I grew up over there at Hilo. I've been in Kona 20 plus years. I'm a father. I've got a couple of kids. I got one ulterior motive for favoring you guys to use whatever planning money, everything, because my daughter going to graduate from high school. She like to go to Stanford, but I said, no, no, no, go UH, right. UH, right.

So the message is, you know, I hear the Hilo guys, you know, I grew up with the Kona guys the last couple of decades, kind of clear now, the information....So when do we get the check?”

Jane Dulaney, American Association of University Women:

“...what can we do from here to get the funds allocated? And I'm not really sure what the disconnect is between what the Governor sees as the problem of not letting go of the funds and, you know, there's been tons of planning that's been done for that. What can we do?”

President McClain explained that in every budget the Regents go for 15 or 20 CIP projects. The Governor picks two to four of the top ones and only supports that small number. Typically the Legislature funds many of those projects and maybe a couple that the University didn't even ask for. So now it's back in the Governor's hands. There is a big collection of projects that have been approved by the Legislature. The Governor then, project by project, is very careful about releasing the funds.
Part of the Governor's concern is that the State not borrow too much money, because all of these projects are funded by borrowing, and over-borrowing can damage our bond rating.

Palamanui/Hiluhilu is a separate thing. As far as what the community can do, it's already doing enough. It really is between the University and the Governor. This has gotten a lot of attention, but there are a lot of projects for which this is fairly typical. It takes time to get them released.

Kate Simms, Assistant Professor of English:

“There is a long history between East and West Hawai‘i, as you obviously gather, and it's a sore one and it is one that's resolving itself in its own complicated way.

However, the relationship between Hawai‘i Community College on the east side and Hawai‘i Community College on the west side is a very healthy and happy and unified relationship and I haven't heard anybody say that, but it's important that you know my faculty members on the east side, we meet very frequently. We have a very congenial relationship and I think that you need to know that if we move ahead, I have a feeling that some of the interests and concerns of the community, while very real, may be a little bit separate from what you see -- what I think you're beginning to gather about the relationship that we have as a community college.”

Curtis Tyler:

“Your agenda for today under public comment period, this is agenda item number 6 says that...those who wish to address the board must sign up at the meeting. The next sentence says...individuals who intend to testify are encouraged to inform the secretary of the board in advance of the meeting but no later than two days prior to the meeting by calling such and such. Does inform mean register? Does it mean sign up? And if it does, then your policy is contradictory. It is contrary to public policy of the State of Hawaii. It may being contrary to the Sunshine Law, and I would say that if people were given advance notice and encouraged to sign up on a list so they could testify ahead of people who came here and must sign up at the meeting and did sign up to testify, you have a problem with your policy and I would ask you, Madam Chair, to please review this. I think it is contradictory.

…the time is long overdue. The 500 acres needs to be used for a campus and it needs to be built as soon as possible.

The problem is that we failed either to plan or to utilize the plans that we have. We have failed to engage the community where the best ideas reside, not in some consultant from America, far away. The best ideas for this place reside right here in the people from this community who are closest to the issues, are closest to the opportunities. And make no mistake, if you continue to operate in a vacuum outside of this and then come and tell us where you are, this is hewa, this is wrong. This is not pono. This is not consistent with your oath of office.

Aina is that which feeds us. It's not just a physical, geographical place, it's not the land. It is in particular the kamali‘i, it is the children, because if we offer
them no future, if we offer them no chance to gain more knowledge, to have more power, to have more opportunity, then we have no future.

Your predecessors have had the vision and the foresight to set aside this 500 acres. By goodness let's get it under the Governor. Let's put it under your kuleana so there's no more of this, well, you know, DLNR, they're going to be involved. Let's get it under your kuleana, all right, and then involve us. Okay. Engage us, because everybody here that came today said, we want to help you. We don't want to hinder you. You are our servants.

...if monies have been set aside by our legislative body to be utilized for West Hawai'i, they should be utilized in West Hawai'i. If land was set aside for a campus in West Hawai'i, it should be used for the campus. ...500 acres is nothing in 100 years. ...To come in here and turn it into some development at the expense of a future campus isn't pono. That isn't what this community had in mind.

...We want this. We need this. We must have this. It is the future of this place. ...West Hawai'i is the second fastest growing community next to Puna in the State of Hawai'i, and where are we? Two hours and 45 minutes from a formal education.

...Please engage us. Please work together with us and you will find us to be those generous people that that woman so eloquently spoke about."

Chair Lagareta clarified that the Board asked people to inform if they were testifying so that a sufficiently sized room was secured. Usually a room on State property is reserved, so originally this meeting was scheduled for a smaller room at NELHA. As people called in to say they wanted to testify, the meeting was moved to the larger hotel ballroom to accommodate everyone.

Representative Cindy Evans:

"I'm from District 7, the 500 acres is in my district, so when I got elected, one of the things I wanted to do was to make sure we got the shovel in the ground, we turned the dirt and we got the building started....But the key has been how do we get the shovel turned, and that has been a challenge for me as a state legislator since I've been there.

...I'm such a believer in higher education and I'm a believer that one way to diversify the economy in Hawai'i is to expand higher education. That is a fabulous employer. It will employ secretaries, it will employ plumbers, it will employ landscapers, it will -- there's a whole spectrum -- it's a synergy. It's got its own energy. And if we're successful, it's going to be a fabulous employer with not a big impact on the environment. So I see it as a very positive way to diversify the economy. So in any way I've wanted to help.

Then what I found out is, you know, I got an ally and the ally that came in the room was Rockne Freitas. He came across extremely supportive and understood what I was trying to do and that was to give something so that we could get something so that we can get people talking to us. Well, then what happened is that Tommy Waters became the chair of higher ed and Tommy has a real connection with Hilo, though Tommy lives on Oahu. And what we said to Tommy is, please focus on the community colleges. Please put money out in
rural -- you know, in the rural areas, and he really understood that and so he became an extreme -- I want people to know here, he became a real ally and a supporter of making sure the community colleges were in the rural areas, Kaua’i, Maui, all of them. He saw that as -- he really understood that, because you have to remember, we understand that community colleges are different from the four-year campuses…And we saw that the two-year community college was really critical. So we kind of got that buy-in. So I think there was a lot of movement.

So what came out of it was this money for the community college on the Big Island and other -- the other colleges, I think, all got money, too, because that was something that Representative Waters wanted to be -- really wanted to drive home is the community colleges. So when I read the article in the Honolulu Advertiser, dated October 21st, 2005, it talks about the vision of the UH regents and how you're looking at working with the private developer to develop the community college on the Big Island, but it's in concert with having two campuses, so what I'm understanding is that if you're going to work with a developer and talk about it, you're talking about basically one community college, but it having two separate campuses. And if you talk to the developer as, you know, how can we come to the table and develop a whole community college and do it in both campuses and how will it be profitable for you but get us what we want? And I think that's kind of your vision in October where you were headed.

So I was a little surprised, actually very surprised, when the Governor came out not quite understanding that, that that was kind of where your vision was at and asking should the money be spent in West Hawai’i, should it be spent in East Hawai’i, should it be spent on both, because I thought it was clear that you were really at the table with a developer saying we want both. We want this college, Hawai’i Community College, to develop, to expand and we have got two campuses and we are not going to separate them. We are going to move forward. And I thought that was always clear, so I was a little surprised that we were having this discussion actually.

…I believe that the most important thing is whatever it takes, again, to get that first shovel in the ground and get that first classroom in a site, because I truly believe that if you build it, they will come…that you will find that having -- having that campus and offering these programs it will succeed and I think it will sustain itself; that you'll find that it will create enough money to sustain itself.

The other thing is, being a legislator you have people lobbying you all the time. What I found is that students would come over from UH Hilo and students would come over from the community college east campus and I would always ask, well, where is the student from West Hawai’i campus? And I've never seen a student from West Hawai’i campus and it has always been disturbing and I keep asking that and it's very difficult. This is the geographic challenge I want to point out to you.

So it's having that synergy of the student body even supporting the West Hawai’i that very difficult. …I haven't seen the presence at the State Capitol, which is unfortunate. I would like to see West Hawai’i have the student person there lobbying, along with the East Hawai’i, because I think what happens is until you decide to give a chancellor to West Hawai’i, you know, so it can be its own college campus. It still ends up being one community college campus with two totally different sites that are geographically very far apart, which creates that
challenge of, you know, how do you get everybody's voices heard at the same table when they're two hours and 45 minutes apart from each other? So I see that as a real challenge.

...I think the decisions that you're going to make is really going to determine what it's going to look like 100 years from now in West Hawai'i, and I encourage you to even consider what the organizational structure is that might also -- you know, as you move forward to developing the campus how will you structure that campus so that it does get that representation at the Legislature when people are asking for money, that it does get the representation in terms of someone who can help set priorities and get the voice of what's going on, engaging the community.

...how we can help, because one of the things that I'm not sure how many people here understand is the autonomy that the Legislature has been, you know, working toward, you know, working with the University having autonomy so that you make decisions that you feel are best for the community and that's -- that's up to you, not up to the Legislature. We are there to hopefully support and as you come to get funding, find funding. I think this partnership -- this private/public partnership is an example of real creative funding."

Mr. Luna Hauanio expressed concern that the land covers Hawaiian burial grounds. Chair Lagareta responded that the University is aware of this and has taken this into consideration.

President McClain assured the Regents that the administration has listened carefully to all the testimony given, that it is pursuing as fast as possible the release of the funds for the planning, for the public/private partnership, and also the Palamanui/ Hiluhilu opportunity. He will continue to report on the plans. He expressed his appreciation to all the members of the community who shared their mana'o.

Chair Lagareta said that, on behalf of all of the Regents, they were extraordinarily grateful for the audience’s time. Many sat the entire day and not only took the time to put together written testimony, but also spoke very eloquently about their Island and their needs. The Regents learned a number of helpful things. They realize they have to get that executive order, get this planning money released which will provide the academic details, facilities details, and the money details, and whether the University can afford it.

The Regents are trying to find a creative way to do as much as possible on this Island, and appreciate the support received from legislators.

The Board is considering public/private partnerships, and is listening to the community. The Regents were very, very grateful that the audience shared their concerns because the Board will absolutely take it to heart.

Regent Albano suggested having a resolution stating that the University of Hawai’i administration, Dr. Rockne Freitas and the Hawaii Campus Developers, upon the release of the planning and design funds from the State administration complete a master plan for the Kalaoa, 500-acre site to include a West Hawai’i Center, a two-year community college and a future four-year baccalaureate campus. The master plan shall include a development timeline and financial plan
to construct the facilities and shall be completed within 15 months following the release of funds.

Regent Hapai indicated that this was too detailed at this point, and wanted more time to consider all of the input from today’s meeting.

Regent Dahilig supported passing some form of a resolution to provide finality to the audience as to where the Board is headed.

President McClain indicated that it would be inappropriate and premature to make a commitment without considering all the regions that are interested in a four-year campus. The University has not made a commitment to create an eighth community college, and this resolution may suggest that that commitment would be made. He proposed completing a master plan for the 500 acres for a West Hawai‘i Center and greater educational opportunities for West Hawai‘i, eventually leading to a community college and perhaps more than that.

Chair Lagareta said that she wanted to give the audience some statement of the Board’s commitment. The Board has already officially on record voted to approve everything that the community needs. She said that after listening today, the Regents need to listen better, listen more, be with the community more and ensure that information is disseminated more effectively.

She asserted that this Board of Regents, this community, the Governor and the Legislature need to get this done, which means getting the land secured, and getting the money released to do the planning, and moving ahead.

President McClain reiterated the plan to get the land transferred to the University, get the planning funds released, and continue with the Palamanui/Hiluhilu project in tandem.

Regent Dahilig moved to empower the chair to convey the Board’s intent in a formal resolution, which was seconded by Regent de la Peña.

Regent Bender commented that statements by the Chair, the President, and the Regents would be in the minutes, which the Board will approve. Approved minutes are a kind of resolution.

Regents Hapai and Tatibouet wanted the action plan to also include working closely with the community to get input and to incorporate the community’s ideas.

Regent Albano said that a lot of work has been done over the years, and the Board doesn’t want the community to think that this is just another meeting and it’s campus will be delayed again. He wanted a statement that they are going to move forward.

Chair Lagareta suggested that the Regents commit to request a meeting with the Governor and her Budget and Finance Director to see where they are at this point, and to see if there’s anything else that they need from the Board. The Regents will also request release of the funds, get the Executive Order, connect with the community and pursue the Hiluhilu opportunity on a parallel track. Her statements will be included in the meeting minutes.
Regent Tatibouet requested that a partial transcript of the oral testimony be provided to the Regents, which Secretary Pang agreed to do.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Dahilig moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Hapai. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Presley Pang  
Interim Executive Administrator  
and Secretary of the Board of Regents