

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT TO THE 2007 LEGISLATURE

Annual Report on

THE SYSTEMWIDE OFFICE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS HCR 137 (2006)

Office of the President December 2006

The Office of Student Affairs is a systemwide University of Hawaii office that oversees student affairs policy and coordinates functions and processes of the campuses regarding student affairs. As noted by HCR 137, this office is the primary office at the UH System level that provides leadership, coordination, and consistency in student affairs policy and issues. This office convenes the Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers to discuss systemwide student affairs policies and practices to ensure consistency and cohesiveness regarding students. This office also oversees the Student Caucus, an organization consisting of student representatives from across the ten campuses across the UH System that provides input and consultation to the President.

In the current organizational structure, the office is headed by a vice president. Since a retirement in December 2005, the office has been led by an associate vice president for student affairs with 12 years of experience in student services matters, and systemwide student affairs functions and services have been sustained and improved during this period.

The University of Hawaii System administration intends to continue the functions of the Office of Student Affairs at the system level, in order to ensure that student issues are kept at the forefront of the primary mission of the University. However, reflecting in part UH Manoa's success in hiring a Vice Chancellor for Students in August 2006, and the resulting change in the nature of the work at the System office (focused less on remediation of problems on the Mānoa campus, and more on systemwide policy issues), and given the experience of the last 12 months, the administration is considering recommending to the Board of Regents that student affairs at the System level become the responsibility of an Associate VP for Student Affairs. The occupant of this office would have a direct, "solid line" reporting relationship to the President for Student Caucus related issues, and perhaps for other student affairs issues as well (the alternative under consideration is a dual solid line reporting relationship to the Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy).

The functions of the Office of Student Affairs will remain to provide administrative leadership, information and advice on matters pertaining to student affairs policies and to facilitate communication and coordination with other system offices, the President, and the Board of Regents' Student Affairs Committee.

During the spring semester, the administration will consult broadly on the reporting structure of the Office of Student Affairs as well as that for other systemwide offices. After consultations are complete, a formal proposal will be brought before the Board of Regents for its approval.