April 20, 2007

Dr. Charles W. Steger, President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
210 Burruss Hall (0131)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear President Steger,

On behalf of the entire University of Hawai‘i community—our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of our 10 campuses across the State of Hawai‘i—I wish to extend our sincerest sympathy to the Virginia Tech community and our condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the victims of this senseless tragedy. Though we are nearly half a world away, we are brought together in solidarity as all of us in the higher education community are deeply affected by Monday’s incomprehensible events.

Many students at our campuses across the state have come together this week trying to make sense of this tragic incident. Many of our faculty collaborate with colleagues at Virginia Tech, and some are proud alumni of your institution. The entire State of Hawai‘i has come together to mourn and pay tribute to the victims through numerous vigils and prayer services in our communities. We have all been touched by these events.

We hope that it will bring you some solace to know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

With deepest sympathy,

David McClain