Presented to the Mānoa Faculty Senate by the Committee on Administration and Budget for a vote on October 21, 2015, a resolution on the five percent (5%) system-wide withholding on Research Training and Revolving Funds (RTRF). Approved by the Mānoa Faculty Senate on October 21, 2015 with 40 votes in support of approval, 2 votes against approval, and 1 abstention.

RESOLUTION ON THE FIVE PERCENT (5%) SYSTEM WIDE WITHHOLDING ON RESEARCH TRAINING AND REVOLVING FUNDS (RTRF)

WHEREAS, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation has declared a 5% system wide withholding of the research training and revolving funds (RTRF) in fiscal year 2016 to “…fund astronomy programs across all campuses. These funds will be used for environmental assessments, consultants, and legal fees for the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope, Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), and other astronomy related programs.”¹; and

WHEREAS, the adjusted RTRF allocation to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for FY 2016 is $28,012,078 after the 5% withholding;¹ and

WHEREAS, the expenditures of any of the RTRF fund must comply with the Hawai‘i Revised Statues (HRS) 304A-2253, which explicitly establishes the RTRF fund and authorizes the University of Hawai‘i board of regents to expend revenues in the fund for research and training purposes.²; and

WHEREAS, the Mānoa Faculty Senate has previously passed a resolution requesting that, “… plans for RTRF distribution from the Offices of the Vice President for Research and the Vice Chancellor for Research be made in consultation with the Mānoa Faculty Senate.”³; and

WHEREAS, the Mānoa Faculty Senate was not consulted regarding the aforementioned 5% RTRF withholding; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mānoa Faculty Senate finds that the withholding of RTRF for legal fees is not in accordance with HRS 304A-2253 and therefore any/all of the funds withheld due to legal costs should be reallocated immediately to the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mānoa Faculty Senate, in accordance with its previous resolution, again requests that any plans for the RTRF distribution from the Offices of the Vice President for Research and the Vice Chancellor for Research be made in consultation with the Mānoa Faculty Senate for fiscal year 2016 and thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mānoa Faculty Senate requests that all funds held in accordance with the aforementioned 5% reduction in RTRF be returned immediately to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa until the Vice President for Research consults with the Mānoa Faculty Senate regarding how the withholding of these funds is a justified expenditure with respect to research and training purposes.

¹ Syrmos, V.L. Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Hawaii, Memo to Robert Bley-Vroman. Interim Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI. 18 August 2015.