Resolution in Opposition to the Implementation of the Chapter 5, Academic Affairs Proposed Executive Policy EP5.xxx on Programs with Low Numbers of Degrees Conferred

WHEREAS, the establishment and disestablishment of academic programs at UH Mānoa is the province of the Mānoa faculty. Board of Regents Policy (RP) 1.210 B on faculty involvement in academic decision-making and academic policy development states that “Together with and subject to the approval of its chancellor, each campus faculty may determine its own organization consistent with this policy…” and “… shall have the responsibility to speak for the faculty on academic policy matters such as determining the initiation, review, and evaluation of proposed, probationary, or authorized research, instructional, and academic programs;” and

WHEREAS, the Mānoa campus already has a policy of identifying and reviewing programs and conducts program reviews both internally and as a regular part of the external program review and accreditation process, as described on its website (https://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/program_review/), and in conformity with Board of Regents Executive policies E5.201 (new and provisional programs) and E5.202 (established programs) (see - http://www.hawaii.edu/policy/?action=home&policySection=ep); and

WHEREAS, E5.201 (new and provisional programs) requires documentation of twelve quantitative measures, one of which is annual number of program graduates (page 11), and E5.202 (established programs) requires documentation of 11 quantitative measures (p.6), one of which is annual number of degrees earned by major; and

WHEREAS, academic programs at Mānoa participate in campus-based program review providing information indicated in existing Executive policies, as well as additional external reviews for national accreditation, making another program review policy at the system level redundant and unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, academic programs in higher education do not stand alone but are designed to interlock and build upon each other so that while a program may have small enrollment, the department offering the small program may be providing required courses for students in other programs; for example, such is the case in educational psychology or mathematics which may have small graduate programs but serve both undergraduates and graduates in other programs who must take their course to meet degree requirements; and

WHEREAS, many of the programs that have small enrollments and graduation rates are unique, rigorous and serve important cultural, economic and environmental needs in Hawaii and the Pacific while being well aligned with the institution’s mission; and

WHEREAS, budget and numbers should not be the primary criteria for establishment or disestablishment of academic programs, but rather program quality and contributions to the mission of the university and needs of those served; and
WHEREAS, the Mānoa Faculty Senate should be consulted on any changes in academic programs at UH Mānoa, and has not been, and the faculty has had no input into the development of this new policy on small programs, and has been informed about it almost too late to contribute to its development in any meaningful way; and

WHEREAS, implementation of such a policy at the system level appears to violate campus autonomy for both campus faculties and campus administrations, threatening our academic integrity and possibly even WASC accreditation; and

WHEREAS, UH System Administration has taken upon itself the identification of specific programs it claims are small in size and wide distribution of that list, prior to the actual adoption of any policy, and this is irresponsible and damaging to the morale of the academic programs; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mānoa Faculty Senate does not approve of the proposed policy put forth by the System Vice President for Academic Affairs on termination of small academic programs, it being redundant with reviews that are already in place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,  
1) The Mānoa Faculty Senate believes that this is a matter to be handled by Mānoa and not System; and
2) The Mānoa Faculty Senate believes that this is a matter to be handled by faculty and not administration; and
3) Therefore the Mānoa Faculty Senate urges withdrawal of said policy, and consultation with Mānoa faculty in a meaningful way before any further action is taken on this matter.