



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs

April 19, 2012

President M.R.C. Greenwood, PhD
2444 Dole Street
Bachman 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Recommendation to provide equal access to library resources across the University of Hawai'i system

Dear President Greenwood:

On behalf of the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC) I would like to thank you for your participation in our meetings. Particularly beneficial were the discussions at the January 20, 2012 meeting which opened the dialogue regarding access to library resources for the entire University of Hawai'i system. As a result, the ACCFSC recommends that resources available at any University of Hawai'i campus library become fully accessible to the faculty and students of all ten campuses. The goal of this recommendation is to retain all current library resources while making these resources available to all campuses. This recommendation is based on the mission of the University of Hawai'i system, the current limited access to library resources, discussion with the Chair of the Library Council, Robert Kajiwara, and the knowledge that full cross-campus availability exists in other university systems.

Currently, each campus library purchases its own databases and resources. To the extent possible, working through library consortiums, the individual libraries work together to provide equal access to a limited number of databases such as EBSCO. However, many resources are available to only faculty and students at certain campuses, especially the Mānoa campus. The faculty and staff of the other nine campuses can access these resources only by using on-site computers at each campus library, which may also be available to the public at large. This severely limits accessibility for off-campus users and can be an insurmountable obstacle for residents of the neighbor islands. While we recognize that there may be financial constraints that argue against universal access for faculty and students that may not utilize particular resources, creative solutions can and should be identified to minimize additional cost while seeking to attain the goal of access across the system for those resources that are needed by faculty and staff, regardless of location within the University of Hawaii system.

According to Board of Regents policy, Chapter 4-1, the University of Hawai'i system mission statement is as follows (emphasis added):

The primary mission of the University is to provide environments in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will help ensure the survival of present and future generations with improvement in the quality of life.



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In carrying out that mission, it is the basic purpose of the University to afford all qualified people of Hawai'i an *equal opportunity for quality college and university education* at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

As the only provider of public higher education in Hawai'i, the University embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and to Hawai'i's indigenous language and culture. To fulfill this responsibility, the University ensures active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the University and supports vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

(<http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/policy/borpch4.pdf>)

In order for the entire system to fulfill this mission, the entire system must have equal access to all of the current and future resources library resources added to the portfolio.

We respectfully request and recommend that the Office of the President address this issue at the system level to improve access to library resources for students and faculty at all campuses in order to improve the quality of education and research at the University of Hawai'i and ultimately benefit all citizens of the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Cooney, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of Public Health Sciences (UHM)
Chair, All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs
Chair, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Faculty Senate

c: Linda Johnsrud, PhD
Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

Robert Kajiwaru, PhD
Chair, University of Hawai'i Library Council