

May 2, 2024, Revised for September 5, 2024

Public Comments on Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success
Agenda Item IV. B. Real Property at 550 Makapu'u Avenue

Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Akitake and Members of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regent's
Committee on Institutional Success

My name is Jill Leilani Nunokawa and I am testifying on and against Agenda Item IV. B. pertaining to the administration's recommendation to authorize UH to enter into a development agreement and option to lease with MW Group for the Real Property at 550 Makapu'u Avenue. I testified against the prior attempt to privatize our public institution of Higher Education on May 2, 2024. A mere four (4) months later, we are back in front of the Board's committee on "Institutional Success" with the "amended" agreement. When reviewing the "new" agreement, there are very few changes. The first notable change is the duration of the ground lease from 90 years to 65 years. Although an improvement, it is not the solution regarding the Regents signing away the public trust assets without a further long range development plan that allows the considerable profits to be enjoyed by the public and UH system, in perpetuity.

The two (2) other "changes" are minuscule at best. The first has non-binding language of will enter into talks with UH about programming etc. The law recognizes the word may as an option rather than shall, which is a legal directive and requirement. The word may should to be changed to "shall". The next "change" is the concept and bait and switch allowing the developer to look into the options of Medicare and Medicaid. The CEO made it very clear in the May board meeting that the numbers don't work for his company. In fact, he stated that only if the State was to subsidize the difference in profit he might consider the subsidies. The concerns raised in the May meeting have not been sufficiently addressed nor the significant conflict of interest in this proposal and the Regents involved.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Kailana Baylosis

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kbaylosis16@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I have benefited from the ARL during my internship over summer 2024. I have been inspired and given opportunities to accomplish my goals through the connections I made at ARL.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Martine Bissonnette

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

bissoma@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support to the work conducted at the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. The ARL conducts cutting-edge research in the areas of ocean science, and areas that are critical to the defense of our country while supporting our community.

Some of the projects include development of technologies that can protect our shorelines as well as detection of unexploded ordances, both of which are important to our state and communities who want to enjoy the shoreline while safely enjoying the ocean. The teams working on these projects consists of engineers and scientists, many of which are UH graduates. The lab aligns with the goal of the State to prevent "brain drain" by providing employment and career pathways and keeping folks in Hawaii.

The lab also runs two outreach-related programs to promote careers in STEM: summer internships and technology education using real-world tools for local colleges and high school students.

As an educator and long-term Oahu resident, I sincerely believe in ARL's importance in performing work that protects the aina and helps our community, and urge you to support the ARL.

Mahalo for your attention and for your efforts in making UH a great place of learning and growth.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Carl Carlson

Your Organization (optional)

Department of Defense

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

carl.e.carlson59.naf@us.navy.mil

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing to you as a Hawai'i resident and as a Director at the Department of Defense (DoD) to express my strong support for the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH).

One of the key benefits of ARL at UH is its role in fostering a productive relationship between the university and the Department of Defense. This engagement is not only beneficial for national security but also provides invaluable opportunities for students and researchers to collaborate on projects that have real-world applications. These partnerships help bridge the gap between academic research and practical implementation, creating a synergy that benefits both the university and the broader community.

Additionally, I am particularly impressed by the work ARL at UH is doing to conserve the natural beauty of Hawai'i. Through its research on environmental monitoring and renewable energy, the laboratory is making significant contributions to protecting our environment. This work is crucial in preserving the unique landscapes and ecosystems that make Hawai'i so special. As someone who deeply values the natural beauty of our islands, I believe that ARL at UH's efforts in this area are not only commendable but essential.

In conclusion, I believe that ARL at UH plays a vital role in both strengthening the relationship between the university and the DoD and in advancing important environmental conservation efforts. I strongly urge you to consider the positive impact this institution has on our community and to continue supporting its mission.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

Carl-Carlson-BOR-ARL.docx (13.5 kB)

Dear President Lassner and BOR

I am writing to you as a Hawai'i resident and as a Director at the Department of Defense (DoD) to express my strong support for the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH).

One of the key benefits of ARL at UH is its role in fostering a productive relationship between the university and the Department of Defense. This engagement is not only beneficial for national security but also provides invaluable opportunities for students and researchers to collaborate on projects that have real-world applications. These partnerships help bridge the gap between academic research and practical implementation, creating a synergy that benefits both the university and the broader community.

Additionally, I am particularly impressed by the work ARL at UH is doing to conserve the natural beauty of Hawai'i. Through its research on environmental monitoring and renewable energy, the laboratory is making significant contributions to protecting our environment. This work is crucial in preserving the unique landscapes and ecosystems that make Hawai'i so special. As someone who deeply values the natural beauty of our islands, I believe that ARL at UH's efforts in this area are not only commendable but essential.

In conclusion, I believe that ARL at UH plays a vital role in both strengthening the relationship between the university and the DoD and in advancing important environmental conservation efforts. I strongly urge you to consider the positive impact this institution has on our community and to continue supporting its mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carl Carlson
Director, Department of Defense

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Your Name (required) *

Josh Levy

Your Organization (optional)

ARL at UH

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

levyjosh@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

I am a current Hawai'i resident, UH alum, and current ARL employee. I am writing this testimony in support of the ARL at UH, and firmly believe that the work ARL has done, currently undertakes, and will continue to do not only supports the mission of UH writ-large, but will pioneer new avenues of research and development that will continue to make UH a top research university, and make the world a better place to live for all living things.

I have personally been involved with multiple projects at the ARL that have made progress in reducing carbon emissions, locating sea disposed munitions, and creating coral reefs to protect vulnerable coastlines.

While working for the ARL at UH I have met my wife and started a family. None of this would have been possible without the support from the place I work. As a citizen, husband, and father, I would not support a workplace that makes the world a more dangerous, inhospitable place for any living organism.

I have been a part of the ARL since the ARL started engineering work for the Navy and I can confidently say nothing we have or will ever create will negatively impact the people of Gaza.

Thank you for your time,
Concerned ARL employee

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Willard Peralta Jr.

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

willard.peralta@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR

My name is Willard Peralta Jr. and I am writing to express my strong support for the mission and initiatives of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. I work full time as a software engineer with the ARL UH on Maui. I was born and raised in Kahului on the island of Maui and have lived in Hawaii for 27 years. I graduated from Maui High School in 2015, received my Associate's degree in Liberal Arts at UH Maui College in 2017, then received my Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from UH Manoa in 2020. The spring before I graduated, I received an email from my academic counselor at UH Manoa about an internship opportunity in Kihei, Maui at the Maui High Performance Computing Center with the ARL UH in the summer of 2020. Shortly after a successful programming internship I was offered full

time employment with the ARL UH on Maui. I have been working full time as a software engineer with the ARL on Maui for over 3 years now. The short summary of why I strongly support the ARL UH is that the ARL UH provides services that are critical to national/regional security, as well as develops and strengthens the people, communities, and economy of Hawaii.

The ARL plays a vital role in advancing research and development in fields critical to both national security and regional safety, particularly in the areas of ocean science, engineering, and defense. The ARL on Maui specializes in the areas of IT, Machine Learning, and programming. Through a program called Zulu Wookiee, ARL at UH applies Artificial Intelligence to combine telescope imagery from the Maui Space Surveillance Site (MSSS) with radar images from the Reagan Test Site on Kwajalein to enhance our understanding of satellites operating above the Pacific Theater. Space domain awareness is a critical area of national and regional security. A highlight is that UH has established a provisional patent for this project. ARL Maui also built a Digital Engineering Ecosystem that supports an integrated digital approach to support lifecycle activities from concept through disposal. This ecosystem is supporting 18,000+ Engineers, Scientists, and Program Managers across the DoD.

We currently have over 50 team members, 24 of which are UH College graduates. This past summer 2024, the ARL on Maui hosted 11 interns consisting of college students who are alumni from Maui High School, Baldwin, and King Kekaulike. We also had two rising seniors from Maui High School. We also had three remote interns who are college students from Oahu and the Big Island. This past year we've attended a handful of career fairs at UH Manoa, UH West Oahu, UH Hilo, UH Maui College, Maui High school, and at the Lahaina Civic center to notify students and the larger community of the opportunities that are available at the ARL. Being born and raised on Maui I was extremely fortunate to have found this opportunity to work full time with the ARL on Maui as a software engineer, so I've been trying to give back by attending these career fairs and by mentoring the younger generation of engineers. Finding an opportunity to live and work on my home island has changed my life and I believe that will be the case for future generations. ARL UH is contributing to Hawaii not only by providing critical defense, but also by providing career opportunities that will develop essential critical thinking, communication and high technology skills in the people of Hawaii.

I strongly believe that the continued support for the ARL's mission is essential for the ongoing safety and prosperity of Hawaii's communities. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to the advancement of research and safety initiatives at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Willard Peralta Jr.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Katie Timboe

Your Organization (optional)

ARL

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

katie@tinyhatcreative.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing to you as a citizen and employee of ARL who deeply believes in the positive impact of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). While I serve as a UX/UI Digital Designer at ARL, my support comes from my personal belief in the value this institution brings to our community.

First and foremost, ARL at UH provides high-quality jobs that are vital to our local economy. These jobs are not only well-paying, but they also offer the opportunity for local residents, including young people, to build fulfilling careers right here on the island. Through our internships and training programs, we give students hands-on experience that prepares them for future careers in cutting-edge fields like robotics, artificial

intelligence, and environmental science. This is not just about jobs today; it's about building a sustainable future for our community.

Moreover, the research we conduct is directly tied to pressing issues like climate change. Our work helps develop innovative solutions that protect our environment and ensure a better future for our planet. This is something I am incredibly proud to be a part of, and I believe it is essential for our community to continue this important work.

While I understand that there are concerns about the nature of our work being connected to the military, I want to emphasize that our research also serves the broader public good. We are committed to serving the state, the nation, and the world through our research and community service. For example, our recent efforts in response to the Lahaina wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic are clear demonstrations of our commitment to helping others in times of need.

I believe that ARL at UH is a vital part of our community, not just because of the jobs it provides, but because of the opportunities it offers our young people and the positive impact it has on our environment and society. I hope you will consider these factors as you make your decision.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

Katie-Timboe-BOR-ARL.docx (13.4 kB)

Dear President Lassner and BOR

I am writing to you as a citizen and employee of ARL who deeply believes in the positive impact of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). While I serve as a UX/UI Digital Designer at ARL, my support comes from my personal belief in the value this institution brings to our community.

First and foremost, ARL at UH provides high-quality jobs that are vital to our local economy. These jobs are not only well-paying, but they also offer the opportunity for local residents, including young people, to build fulfilling careers right here on the island. Through our internships and training programs, we give students hands-on experience that prepares them for future careers in cutting-edge fields like robotics, artificial intelligence, and environmental science. This is not just about jobs today; it's about building a sustainable future for our community.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Timboe

UX/UI Digital Designer, Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

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Your Name (required) *

Milton Garces

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

Mgarces2@me.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the mission and initiatives of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. The ARL plays a vital role in advancing research and development in fields critical to both national security and regional safety, particularly in the areas of ocean science, engineering, and defense.

I have been living in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for 27 years as part of the UH faculty, joined ARL in 2023 as Remote Sensing director, and was the CEO of a successful UH startup. My field of specialty is environment sensing and early warning systems to inform first responders - civilian and military - of danger. We develop technology that can help assess, deter, and deescalate a perceived natural or man-made threat. Deterrence

is one of the the primary functions of the US Department of Defense. We do **not** build weapons; we build tech and tools that allow us to remain vigilant and able to respond appropriately to risk and hazard.

One of the most commendable aspects of the ARL's work is in helping develop Hawaii's workforce in technical jobs, adding diversity and robustness to the economy not only in Oahu, but also in Maui and the Big Island. ARL has brought substantial capital into into Hawaii since its inception, most of which has gone to gob creation and sustainment.

I strongly believe that continued support for the ARL's mission is essential for the ongoing safety and prosperity of Hawaii. I urge the University of Hawaii, and those keen to protect our State and Country, to preserve and nurture ARL's people and resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to supporting national security and regional safety at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Milton Garces

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Joe Gilmore

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii/Joe Gilmore

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

the-cne@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR,

I am writing to strongly advocate for the continued support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. The ARL's contributions to environmental and ecological research, as well as its education and training programs and intern programs for college and high school students throughout the state, are critical not only to the university but also to the broader community in Hawaii and beyond.

The ARL's work in environmental and ecological research is vital for the preservation and restoration of Hawaii's unique ecosystems. Through projects such as coral reef monitoring and environmental remediation, the ARL plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the natural resources that are so integral to Hawaii's identity and

economy. Their research efforts help mitigate the impacts of climate change, pollution, and other environmental challenges that threaten the delicate balance of our island ecosystems.

Particularly noteworthy is the ARL's focus on coral reef monitoring. Hawaii's coral reefs are among the most diverse and biologically rich ecosystems on the planet, but they are also among the most vulnerable. The ARL's research provides critical data that informs conservation strategies, helping to protect these invaluable natural assets for future generations.

Additionally, the ARL's work on environmental remediation addresses the pressing need to clean up historical environmental damage, including that resulting from past military activities. This research not only contributes to a healthier environment but also aligns with broader national and global efforts to promote sustainability and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Beyond its research endeavors, the ARL's education and training programs are indispensable in fostering the next generation of scientists, engineers, and environmental stewards. The lab's commitment to STEM outreach, particularly in fields related to its core research areas, provides students with unparalleled opportunities to engage in hands-on learning and cutting-edge research.

These programs are crucial in preparing students to tackle the complex environmental challenges of the future. By equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to innovate and lead in these fields, the ARL is making a lasting impact on both individual careers and the broader scientific community.

Moreover, the ARL's training initiatives for military personnel and other professionals enhance national security and environmental protection efforts, ensuring that the knowledge generated through research is effectively applied in real-world contexts.

In conclusion, the continued support of the ARL at the University of Hawaii is essential to advancing environmental and ecological research, as well as to nurturing the talent and expertise necessary to sustain these efforts in the long term. The ARL's work is not only critical to the health of Hawaii's ecosystems but also serves as a model for how research institutions can contribute to global environmental solutions while fostering educational excellence.

I urge you to continue supporting this vital research institution and its ongoing projects. The benefits of the ARL's work extend far beyond the university, positively impacting the local community, the state of Hawaii, and the broader global environment.

Thank you for considering this important matter, and I trust that you will join me in ensuring the continued success of the ARL at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Joe Gilmore

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Sean Mahaffey

Your Organization (optional)

ARL at UH

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

seanhoy@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

I want to express my strongest support for ARL at UH. I am a Navy veteran of 11 years, 9 of which I was stationed at Kāne'ohe MCBH. After I was honorably discharged, I earned a master's degree in oceanography from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During that time, I worked at ARL at UH as a scientific SCUBA diver, which helped support me financially while finishing my master's thesis work. I went on to a fellowship at NOAA in Washington D.C. for a year and was fortunate to return to ARL at UH afterwards, this time as a technical program manager, where I have served in that role for over a year and a half.

ARL at UH provides many opportunities for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students from Hawai'i both providing financial support, and vital professional development and experience. They have also hired several UH graduates in competitive technical positions. As ARL at UH grows, these opportunities will continue to grow as well, providing avenues for Hawai'i students to remain in Hawai'i after graduating, and supporting the growth of a technical workforce in state.

Additionally, ARL at UH supports the growth of technical industries in Hawai'i. Both by growing its own capabilities in advanced manufacturing and electronics, and by partnering with small technical businesses throughout the state. These partnerships will grow, fostering opportunities for growth in the private sector.

Finally, ARL at UH supports the University of Hawai'i system by collaborating and partnering with several entities including, but not limited to, the College of Engineering, the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, the Institute for Astronomy Instrument Shop, the UH Marine Center Machine Shop, Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, and many others. These mutually beneficial partnerships strengthen the UH system and will increase in the future.

In summary, ARL at UH has provided me with many opportunities as it has, and will continue to, provide other students at UH. It is helping develop and grow a technical workforce in the state and supporting technical industries, which will provide opportunities for that highly skilled workforce to remain in Hawai'i. It is also supporting the growth and research at the University of Hawai'i in several areas. Ultimately, ARL at UH is a benefit to the University of Hawai'i and to the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time,
Sean Mahaffey

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Ana Manrique

Your Organization (optional)

None

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

lacabanacomandante@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR

I am writing to express my strong support for the mission and initiatives of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. The ARL plays a vital role in advancing research and development in fields critical to both national security and regional safety, particularly in the areas of ocean science, engineering, and defense.

One of the most commendable aspects of the ARL's work is its ongoing efforts in the detection and retrieval research for old ordnance in the waters off the coast of West Oahu. The presence of unexploded ordnance

(UXO) poses a significant threat to the safety of local communities, maritime activities, and the natural environment. By focusing on the research for identification and retrieval of these hazardous remnants, the ARL is not only mitigating potential risks but also contributing to the restoration and preservation of our precious marine ecosystems.

The work conducted by the ARL in this area exemplifies a commitment to both public safety and environmental stewardship. Their interdisciplinary approach, which combines advanced technological research with practical field operations, is crucial in addressing the complex challenges posed by underwater UXO. This initiative not only enhances the security of the region but also serves as a model for similar efforts in other parts of the world.

I strongly believe that continued support for the ARL's mission is essential for the ongoing safety and prosperity of Hawaii's communities and its marine environment. I urge the University of Hawaii, those interested in protecting the aina and relevant stakeholders to prioritize and expand the resources allocated to these important projects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to the advancement of research and safety initiatives at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ana Manrique

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Shelby Taguma

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

shelbytaguma@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) *

Gloria Choo

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

gchoo.ctr@nsin.mil

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Letter of Endorsement for UH ARL.docx (17.3 kB)

Gloria Choo
Regional Engagement Principal, Hawai'i
National Security Innovation Network
U.S. Department of Defense
2425 Campus Rd, Sinclair 10
Honolulu, HI 96822
Email: gchoo.ctr@nsin.mil
Date: August 31, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Lab (UH ARL) and to highlight its substantial and positive impact on our community. As a vital research entity, UH ARL plays a crucial role in advancing science and technology while addressing pressing issues that affect both our local and national interests.

UH ARL serves as a center of excellence in research and development, contributing to a wide array of fields including ocean sciences, cyber security, astronomy, and renewable energy. Its work directly aligns with the unique challenges and opportunities presented by our location in the Pacific region. UH ARL's initiatives not only drive innovation but also create valuable opportunities for local businesses, enhance workforce development, and foster economic growth throughout Hawai'i.

In addition, UH ARL's commitment to collaboration has built strong partnerships across academia, industry, and government. These partnerships not only advance critical research but also ensure that cutting-edge discoveries and technological advancements benefit our local community. By engaging local experts, employing residents, and involving students and faculty, UH ARL helps cultivate the next generation of leaders, scientists, and innovators, thereby contributing to a more skilled and prepared workforce.

The lab's efforts in research and development also have far-reaching implications for community resilience, particularly in areas like climate adaptation, natural disaster preparedness, and environmental sustainability. By providing critical data and innovative solutions, UH ARL is actively enhancing our ability to respond to and recover from a wide range of challenges, thereby improving the quality of life for all who call Hawai'i home.

I believe that the continued growth and support of the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory will bring even greater benefits to our community in the years ahead. I fully support their efforts and encourage others to recognize the important contributions they make to our society, economy, and environment.

Sincerely,
Gloria Choo
Regional Engagement Principal
National Security Innovation Network

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Shujie Chang

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

Shujie.chang@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As a former ARL employee, I experienced firsthand the organization's crucial role in cultivating a skilled technical workforce in Hawaii. Through collaborations with other UARCs, FFRDCs, academic institutions, industry, and government agencies, ARL effectively addressed critical technology challenges facing Hawaii, the United States, and the global community. By providing and facilitating opportunities for faculty and students to engage in cutting-edge research and development, ARL not only developed the talent necessary to drive innovation but also contributed significantly to Hawaii's economic wellbeing. ARL's focus on creating dual-use technologies—those with both commercial and defense applications—further solidified Hawaii's position as a hub for technological advancement.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Gabrielle Dang

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

hoangabrielle@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I was an intern this past summer at the ARL MHPCC and worked remotely in the Oahu office. I can only speak on my 10 week experience, but I can confidently say that I had nothing short of a transformative experience during my time as a software engineer intern. ARL provided me with the opportunity to work on a project that was fulfilling to both my career and the business as a whole. The staff that I worked closely with were very attentive and fostered a strong learning community, providing us with as much hands on experience as possible. Although interns did not have access to internal projects / agendas happening at the ARL, I can affirm that their duties are for the right reasons and have emphasized its contributions to making a positive impact to the Hawai'i community.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Christine Davis

Your Organization (optional)

UH Graduate

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

christinemdavis808@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am a recent UH grad/alum writing in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii. I grew up in Maui, Hawaii and have worked on promoting reef-safe sunscreen for many years, so I am particularly excited about their work on restoring coral reefs. I am also intrigued by their project to detect contaminants in the water after natural disasters like tsunamis and hurricanes. I hope that you will please help the ARL to continue to do this important research.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Edward "Ned" Davis

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Lab of the University of Hawaii

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ned_p_davis@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

August 31, 2024

Edward "Ned" Davis

2742 Puu Hoolai St

Kihei, HI 96753

Phone # 808 866 4347

Email ned_p_davis@yahoo.com

Dear Colleagues at the University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Regarding Agenda Item IV.F Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. I am writing in wholehearted support of and to thank you for the wonderful University of Hawaii Applied Research Laboratory – I have been a Hawaii resident for over 18 years, and the Applied Research Laboratory has allowed me to continue my scientific research, stay on Maui, and support my beloved home State of Hawaii even after the devastating wildfires on Maui dramatically curtailed business opportunities here. ARL extended job offers to myself, and every single one of my employees when our small business faltered after the fires. Indeed, we now work on protecting the many of the satellites that we helped build from dangers such as collisions with space debris – And incidentally many of those satellites were the first line of communications for many Lahaiana residents to reach loved ones after the fires.

My children have and currently are attending the University of Hawaii, they love the work that we do here too, and will be submitting testimony as well. They are hapa, grew up in Hawaii, and we are so grateful for the opportunity for our entire family to stay here in the only home we really know – We are so truly blessed and grateful to the University and the ARL.

I am so incredibly proud of the work that my colleagues and I do the ARL both at my home office on Maui and all the other islands and head office on Oahu. From helping to restore coral reefs, to disaster preparedness & response, to my own work in space, we truly touch from the bottom of the sea to beyond the atmosphere. These are good people, and so talented, dedicated, and hard working – I couldn't be more fortunate than to be part of this wonderful organization, and I hope that you will see fit to continue to support us and allow us to do this wonderful work for you, our state, and our nation.

Thank you so very much in advance for this opportunity to provide testimony and any assistance that you may be able to provide us to continue our wonderful work with ARL.

Yours Truly,

Ned Davis

Edward "Ned" Davis

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

Edward Ned Davis Letter in Support of the Applied Research Laboratory.docx (14.3 kB)

August 31, 2024

Edward "Ned" Davis
2742 Puu Hoolai St
Kihei, HI 96753
Phone # 808 866 4347
Email ned_p_davis@yahoo.com

Dear Colleagues at the University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Regarding Agenda Item IV.F Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. I am writing in wholehearted support of and to thank you for the wonderful University of Hawaii Applied Research Laboratory – I have been a Hawaii resident for over 18 years, and the Applied Research Laboratory has allowed me to continue my scientific research, stay on Maui, and support my beloved home State of Hawaii even after the devastating wildfires on Maui dramatically curtailed business opportunities here. ARL extended job offers to myself, and every single one of my employees when our small business faltered after the fires. Indeed, we now work on protecting the many of the satellites that we helped build from dangers such as collisions with space debris – And incidentally many of those satellites were the first line of communications for many Lahaiana residents to reach loved ones after the fires.

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Thank you so very much in advance for this opportunity to provide testimony and any assistance that you may be able to provide us to continue our wonderful work with ARL.

Yours Truly,

Ned Davis

Edward "Ned" Davis

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Jeffrey Dixon

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jeffrey.s.dixon00@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I submit this testimony in my current capacity serving as the Director of Strategic Planning and Management at the Applied Research Lab but also as a member of our community.

I urge your support in ensuring that the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i is provided the opportunity to continue to serve the University and people of Hawai'i.

As the Applied Research Laboratory conducts vital national research today to meet tomorrow's critical security challenges it contributes to workforce development, and conducts community service while providing economic benefits.

Workforce Development: The ARL at UH is building a high-tech work force of scientists, engineers, technicians, and administrators to support emerging fields such as robotics, artificial intelligence/machine learning, adaptive manufacturing, and environmental monitoring.

The ARL at UH supports internships and training programs that promote the appreciation and understanding of research, development, test and evaluation. Students get hands-on experience with ARL researchers and engineers and, in turn serve as role models inspiring younger generations. This succession of knowledge and experience that ARL at UH has developed is critical to building a skilled workforce necessary to support the State of Hawai'i's endeavor to diversify its economy through high-tech industry.

The ARL at UH has directly hired 85 students; sixteen high school students and 69 college students. Fourteen percent of the student interns transitioned to part- or full-time employment with ARL at UH after they graduated.

Additionally, the ARL at UH supports the Maui Economic Development Board STEMworks program to provide innovative curriculum and resources to local teachers and students statewide. The Maui ARL at UH team actively engages with Maui high schools to inspire next generation Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) leaders, including mentoring Maui robotics teams. The ARL at UH also participates in career fairs across the state to grow STEM workforce and industry in Hawai'i.

Community Service: The ARL at UH serves the state, the nation and the world in researching and sharing knowledge about emerging issues related to the laboratory's five primary core competencies: Ocean Environmental Effects; Astronomical Research; Advanced Electro-Optical Systems, Detectors, Arrays and Instrumentation; Environmental Sensor Research and Remote Sensing; and New Renewable Energy.

Following the tragic wildfires on Maui ARL at UH worked with the Maui tech community to distribute five-hundred Starlink terminals to provide internet service to those affected by the wildfires and emergency personnel. The Maui ARL at UH team developed an app to organize information about missing community members. It also coordinated financial donations and donations of supplies for the Lahaina community and acted as "boots on the ground" to support recovery on Maui.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, ARL at UH partnered with the Hawai'i Pandemic Applied Modeling Work Group to create a forecast tool that allowed epidemiologists to visualize the future state of the pandemic. It also helped Hawai'i's medical professionals prepare for hospital capacity and overflow. The ARL at UH also partnered with the UH College of Engineering and Hawai'i physicians to develop a technique for ventilating up to four patients using a single ventilator with a multi-split ventilator system. At the behest of the UH School of Nursing, ARL at UH developed and deployed an app to count how masks were being worn in Hawai'i.

The ARL at UH recently embarked upon outreach as a form of community service. The ARL at UH began sharing design, building instructions and build kits of small free floating sensors with STEM students to test and evaluate ARL kits, including materials and instructions, for building sensors to monitor the maritime environment. This past year it engaged with student groups at Hawai'i Pacific University, Leeward Community College and Waipahu High School.

Economic Benefits: ARL is an economic engine for UH and the State of Hawai'i, generating >\$150M of extramural revenue since its inception in 2008, with <<\$5M investment from the State. ARL currently employs or supports 152 faculty, staff and students on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island. Since the lab's inception in 2008 over half (56 of 102) research efforts have been led by UH faculty. Since 2018 ARL at UH and

supported 11 UH faculty. ARL contracts have brought in over \$230M in research and operations dollars to the state since its inception in 2008.

Examples of Current Research:

* ARL is establishing a testing range for technologies used to detect and neutralize sea-disposed munitions (chemical / high explosives disposed of around the islands of Hawai'i—and other seas—following World War II).

* ARL is partnering with Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the SOEST Department of Ocean Research and Engineering to develop climate adaptation technologies (the first hybrid coral-reef system engineered to protect coastlines).

* ARL recently established an advanced manufacturing center in partnership with Institute for Astronomy to support rapid prototyping and local workforce development in this growing industry.

* Growing cybersecurity research on Maui is helping protect our nation's critical networks.

Personal Note: Prior to working for the ARL I served as a naval Oceanography Officer. During that time I was fortunate to meet my wife who is originally from O'ahu. We settled here permanently two years ago following my retirement from the military. The experience I gained with the Navy enabled me to positively contribute to the ARL mission. In turn, the ARL provided me the opportunity to embark on a second career that can help contribute to the University and the people of Hawai'i while supporting a family here. Our two children are members of a windward O'ahu swim club, a hālau and participate in youth soccer. This past spring our daughter was selected as her school's May Day queen and started the seventh grade at Kamehameha schools last month. We consider ourselves lucky to be members of the local community which would likely not be feasible without the employment opportunity provided by the ARL.

ARL's pending contract is for \$290M over 10 years. I urge your support in ensuring that the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i is provided the opportunity to continue to serve the University and people of Hawai'i.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Charles Fletcher

Your Organization (optional)

SOEST

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

fletcher@soest.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL 2024 BOR.docx (63.8 kB)

Office of the Dean

To: Board of Regents
From: Charles Fletcher, Interim Dean
Date: Sept. 1, 2024

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued operation and expansion of the University of Hawai'i's Applied Research Laboratory (ARL). The ARL serves as a vital component of the university's research infrastructure, contributing significantly to both the academic mission of the university and the broader needs of our state and nation.

Since its establishment, the ARL has proven itself as a leader in innovative research, particularly in areas of national security, defense, and applied sciences. The laboratory's work not only enhances the University of Hawai'i's reputation as a world-class research institution but also brings substantial economic benefits to our state. By securing federal research contracts and grants, the ARL has generated millions of dollars in funding, directly supporting research activities that provide opportunities for students, faculty, and local businesses.

The ARL's research initiatives are aligned with the strategic goals of the University of Hawai'i, particularly in advancing knowledge in fields critical to our national interests, such as oceanography, astronomy, cyber security, and renewable energy. Moreover, the laboratory fosters collaborations between the university and leading government agencies, including the Department of Defense, ensuring that Hawai'i remains at the forefront of cutting-edge research and technological development.

Furthermore, the ARL plays a crucial role in workforce development. The laboratory provides students with unique opportunities to engage in hands-on research, gaining valuable skills that are highly sought after in today's job market. These experiences not only enhance the educational experience at the University of Hawai'i but also prepare students to become the next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In addition to its research contributions, the ARL actively supports the university's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By engaging with underrepresented groups and providing opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to participate in high-impact research, the ARL is helping to build a more inclusive and equitable academic environment.

As the Board of Regents considers the future of the University of Hawai'i's Applied Research Laboratory, I urge you to recognize the significant value that the ARL brings to the university, the state, and the nation. The continued support and expansion of the ARL will not only bolster the university's research capabilities but also contribute to the long-term economic and social well-being of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Darryll Wong

Your Organization (optional)

resident

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

darryllw@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha, My name is Darryll Wong and I served as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii. I have know and worked with Margo Edwards and people at the ARL for over 15 years and extend my strongest support for the UH ARL. The research they do helps the State of Hawaii as well as our Nation and Globally. As the Adjutant General the dual use technologies that they were developing helped me in my role as the head of emergency management. As a member of a private high school Board very interested in promoting STEM the ARL offered and continues to offer internships for deserving high school students. These students are exposed to real research and learn science by doing science. Our State promotes the idea of STEM and the ARL directly contributes to it as well as helps develops a workforce for our State. The collaboration with

other organizations, Universities and Research Labs across the Nation helps to strengthen departments of our University. I again extend my strongest support for the UH ARL. Mahalo!

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Louise J Ching

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ljching@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I enthusiastically support the work of ARL at UH. They are a positive force in our community.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Sophia Davis

Your Organization (optional)

UH Manoa Student

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

sodavis10@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

September 1, 2024

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

In regards to Agenda Item IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i, I am writing in full support of the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory and the wonderful, impactful work that they are carrying out here in Hawai'i.

As a student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the daughter of an ARL scientist, I have been able to see and learn firsthand about some of the incredibly important, innovative work that ARL has been doing here in the islands. For example, I was recently able to visit ARL's 3D printing lab at the Manoa Innovation Center with my father (who is a scientist at ARL Maui), where I was able to learn about the fascinating hybrid coral reef project that they are working on from the students working there. I was intrigued to learn about this engineered coral reef protection project, which will both help protect our shorelines from erosion as well as provide a habitat for coral and marine life. Using a very large, professional quality 3d printer, they were creating printed molds for pouring the concrete to create specialized modules that will house the corals and allow for them to grow.

I have also had the chance to meet several UH Manoa students that work for ARL through my Calculus III class and my visit to the 3D printing lab, and something I noticed about all the students I've met is their passion and enthusiasm for their work at ARL, and all of the incredible skills and experience they have been able to gain through their roles. I have noticed that these brilliant, ambitious, and well-spoken students have always had nothing but wonderful things to say about working at ARL. I am so pleased to hear that ARL provides such wonderful opportunities for students here in Hawai'i to gain these experiences and contribute to projects that have these important, tangible impacts to our community and environment.

Mahalo nui loa, and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony for this wonderful organization!

Best Wishes,

Sophia Davis

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Margo Edwards

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

margo@arl.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

My name is Margo Edwards. I have been employed by University of Hawai'i (UH) since July 1991, receiving tenure as a faculty member within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology in the early 2000's. I currently serve as the Director of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at UH.

UH is one of only fifteen universities in the United States selected to partner with the Department of Defense (DoD) to address emerging challenges in fields including national security, climate change, pollution remediation, energy resilience, and health. The ARL at UH is a dedicated team of professionals who collectively strive to solve these complex challenges for the benefit of Hawai'i and the world. A few of the ARL's notable achievements include locating and assessing sea-disposed munitions; fabricating hybrid coral

reefs for climate adaptation; providing cybersecurity for networks critical to national security; developing tools for rapid response in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief situations, including the 2023 Maui wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic; and assessing systems for harnessing energy from the ocean. The ARL's research focuses on problems impacting our community, but it informs colleagues around the globe; for example, our work on munitions was reported to the European Parliament to inspire those remediating munitions around Europe. Additionally, discussions are underway to transfer the ARL's hybrid reef innovations to Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The ARL currently employs 81 personnel on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island; ~50% of these employees graduated from UH. The ARL is building the largest high-tech workforce on Maui, focusing on fields such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. In addition to the ARL's 81 employees, more than 50 UH faculty members and over 100 undergraduate and graduate students have been supported by the ARL's tasks. The ARL is proud of our diverse workforce, which includes veterans and civilians from Hawai'i and beyond, with subject matter expertise in critical research areas. Building multi-disciplinary teams with theoretical as well as operational experience allows the ARL to efficiently develop practical innovations.

Since 2008, extramural funding awarded to the ARL has bolstered the State of Hawai'i's economy by ~\$175M and fostered new capabilities at UH such as a state-of-the-art rapid prototyping laboratory. We expect our new contract can double the ARL's economic benefit to the State of Hawai'i over the next decade and simultaneously expand a locally sourced high-tech workforce.

At the heart of each ARL effort lies a simple question: "How can we help?" For almost two decades, our local communities, UH, the State of Hawai'i, and the world have benefitted from the solutions that the ARL developed in response to this question. I ask the Board of Regents to continue your support of the University of Hawai'i's Applied Research Laboratory so that our team can continue our mission to help Hawai'i and the world.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Katharine Hafner

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

khafner@iolani.org

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As a community member, I am in favor of ARL at UH. It supports many kinds of research and student education, and participates in the life of the university and the greater community with integrity.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Noah Hafner

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

nhafner@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL--UH_BoR-TestimonyShort-Sep05.pdf (34.4 kB)

Noah Hafner
nhafner@hawaii.edu

September 5th, 2024

Members of the Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I am providing testimony as a private citizen regarding BOR Agenda Item IV.F in wholehearted support the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). In my professional capacity I serve as Director of Sensor Systems at the ARL at UH.

As an alumnus of the UH Mānoa Engineering program who has lived on Oahu for over three decades, I want to have a high performing university and a business ecosystem for advanced technology jobs.

ARL at UH staff work with undergraduate and graduate students. Some of these interactions are teaching, more are as coworkers, supervisors, or mentors on tasks and projects.

The laboratory has supported high tech workforce development through internships, student projects, graduate hiring, and partnerships with local companies. These actions aid training and economic growth and, where students are involved, provide experiential learning and additional context for STEM topics.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the ARL at UH,
Noah Hafner

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Your Name (required) *

Lloyd Hihara

Your Organization (optional)

UHM

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

hihara@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

UHM faculty and students on our DoD projects work on dual-use technologies that provide training for workforce development in Hawaii and the USA. Our projects also substantially support local businesses in areas that are important for Hawaii to maintain and grow.

Your Testimony (pdf or word) *

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Ben Jones

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

bnyjones@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see attached testimony (pdf).

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

BoR-testimony_Jones_2024-09-02.pdf (164.5 kB)

Sept 2nd, 2024

Dr. Ben Jones
Kailua, Hawai'i

Letter in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at UH (Agenda Item IS – IV.F.)

Members of the Board,

Hello, my family and I have been members of the Windward community on O'ahu for six years. My children have attended elementary, middle and now high school on O'ahu. We are active in the local food bank, swim club and soccer clubs—including 13 seasons volunteer-coaching soccer players from Waimānalo, Kailua and Kāne'ohe. Our family moved to Hawai'i when an opportunity became available at the Applied Research Laboratory where I am currently the Director of Ocean Sciences and Technology. A veteran of 21 years of service, I had the fortune of spending most of my time in the service providing weather and oceanographic support for Naval ships and facilities. Since taking the position at ARL, I feel very fortunate to have come into an organization that has strong values and close ties to the local community. I would summarize our contributions to the University, the greater community and the State of Hawai'i as a whole in three main ways: Dual-use technology, ARL support of student research, and ARL's support of small-businesses.

Dual-use Research:

Nearly all of the research that my teams have conducted have dual-use potential. By this I mean that, while the Department of Defense funds the research, there is nearly always a practical, non-military application to the research that often provides the most interesting path for engaging students and collaborating with other laboratories on campus. Examples of this include the following:

Hybrid reefs: ARL, in partnership with the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the Ocean and Resources Department of SOEST is developing a living coastal protection system inspired by natural coral reefs. This research into nature-based breakwaters is being funded by DoD to protect military coastal installations, but has direct application to protecting public and private resources (roads, homes, public spaces) along Hawai'i's coasts. Furthermore, the basic research into coral restoration such as accelerated coral settlement, improved outplanting techniques and breeding thermally tolerant coral have the potential for impacting coral restoration across the Hawaiian islands.

Advanced manufacturing. ARL has established an additive manufacturing center in partnership with the Institute of Astronomy and College of Engineering. This center includes 21 state-of-the-art 3D printers for prototyping new parts for ships and submarines. Dual uses of these manufacturing tools abound. Recently, for example, ARL has been printing molds for casting complex reef habitats. Exposing students to these

advanced technologies with novel and relevant use-cases will ready them for the major evolution in manufacturing that Hawai'i can expect to see over the next decade.

Uncrewed system technology. ARL made the national news in 2018 with the first delivery of a package to an at-sea submarine via an uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV). Today major tech companies such as Amazon and DoorDash are beginning drone deliveries of personal packages. Involving students in state-of-the art technology during their undergraduate and graduate careers prepares them for the workforce they will be entering in the coming years.

Student involvement: In my six years at ARL, my research projects have supported over 30 students including 19 graduate students with most of the research directly applicable to their graduate theses. All of the research area listed above have included students in Hawai'i many of whom who have gone on to work in related fields here in the state.

Small business support: Projects under my lead have brought in over \$25.5M to the state of Hawai'i in the past 6 years. These projects have funded students, graduate students, employees of ARL and partner researchers in the College of Engineering, HIMB, ORE, the Institute for Astronomy and the UH Marine Center. Additionally, ARL partners with small businesses on the island for boat and diving support, metal manufacturing, ocean logistics, concrete pre-casting, and micro-electronics design and assembly to name a few. We are proud to be a major supporter of local businesses and the growing tech economy in Hawai'i as a whole.

In conclusion, I am very proud to be a part of an organization that connects me more deeply to the place that my family calls home. Having the opportunity to present our work to neighborhood boards, engage young students in our internship programs, and meet with local businesses on a weekly basis make the connection all the more real and important.

I strongly recommend approval of the upcoming actions by the UH Board of Regents in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at UH.

Sincerely,
Ben Jones

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Your Name (required) *

Donald Kaulukukui

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

rains.schist-0y@icloud.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Regarding BOR agenda item IS-IV.F. I submit this testimony in strong support of the ARL at the University of Hawaii. ARL at UH offers the nation, the state of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii system unique and highly advanced research and development capabilities that are unmatched elsewhere.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UH_BOR_Testimony_SUPPORT_of_IS_IV_F.pdf (279.4 kB)

Dear President Lassner and BOR,

Regarding BOR agenda item IS-IV.F. I submit this testimony in strong support of the ARL at the University of Hawaii. ARL at UH offers the nation, the state of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii system unique and highly advanced research and development capabilities that are unmatched elsewhere.

As a native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii, who attended Kamehameha Schools and graduated from the University of Hawaii, I have always felt deeply connected to our community and its values. My lifelong dream has been to live and work in Hawaii while being involved in cutting-edge technology, and ARL at UH makes this dream a reality. With over 15 years of experience as an engineer supporting the US Navy as a civil servant, and now working as an electrical engineer at ARL, I am writing to express my strong support for ARL at UH.

ARL at UH provides vital technical expertise that is otherwise unavailable in Hawaii, ensuring our community has access to advanced knowledge and skills. By allowing skilled professionals to stay in Hawaii while continuing to develop their careers and technical abilities, ARL at UH creates valuable opportunities for residents to pursue meaningful and fulfilling work without needing to leave the islands.

The technical capabilities of ARL have significantly benefited Hawaii in times of need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ARL developed the multi-split ventilator system and a mask-use counting application, providing critical support. More recently, during the Maui wildfires, ARL at UH collaborated with the Maui tech community to distribute Starlink terminals and offered expertise to the Department of Health on remote sensing capabilities.

Through these efforts, ARL at UH has made substantial contributions to the local community by providing expert knowledge and fostering partnerships with local industries, thereby significantly strengthening Hawaii.

Thank you for your time, attention, and continued support.

Aloha,

Donald Kaulukukui

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Your Name (required) *

KRITSANA KUMPHET

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kritsanaku64@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Thomas LaCroix III

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

tlincorporated@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Thank you for providing space easily accessible for Testimonies; This one in regards to IS - IV.F. Presentation On the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i. Included in the document attached is my testimony in full support of the activities of the Applied Research Laboratory. Thank you for your time.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL Testimony Document.docx (7.4 kB)

September 1st, 2024

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Aloha, this Testimony is in regards to Agenda Item IV.F Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. Today I am writing of my own accord to express my unwavering support for the activities and advancements founded by the ARL. As a born and raised Maui resident, I am very satisfied with the research and hard work that goes into the laboratory's projects. One such project of ecological import is the Hybrid Reef, which seeks to decrease wave energy and would support experiments to breed more coral, the likes of which could even survive a warmer ocean.

Outside of this there are other projects that would benefit the community as they continue to develop and are implemented in large part from the ARL such as Renewable Wave Energy, Cybersecurity backed by high-performance computer systems, and most importantly their contributions to the future of society as a whole through our UH students and the opportunities they extend to them.

Overall I am overwhelmingly impressed with the Applied Research Laboratory's work in our community and to the technology that reaches further than that as well. Thank you for your time and for the space provided for testimony and opportunity to voice my support in favor of the ARL's current and future prospects.

Mahalo,

Thomas Alan LaCroix III

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Your Name (required) *

Wansuree Massagram

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

wansuree@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing to express my strong support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL) at the University of Hawaii, a critical institution that plays a pivotal role in advancing research, innovation, and technological development in our state. The ARL has consistently demonstrated excellence in conducting cutting-edge research across various disciplines, significantly contributing to both the academic and broader research communities.

The ARL's unique position within the University of Hawaii enables it to leverage the rich academic resources of the university while fostering collaborations with government agencies, industry partners, and other research institutions. This collaborative approach has resulted in groundbreaking research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including cybersecurity, ocean sciences, renewable energy, and national defense.

One of the ARL's greatest strengths is its ability to attract and nurture top-tier talent, both from within Hawaii and beyond. By providing state-of-the-art facilities and fostering a culture of innovation, the ARL not only supports the academic and professional growth of its researchers but also enhances the reputation of the University of Hawaii as a leading research institution on the global stage.

Furthermore, the ARL's contributions extend beyond research and development. It plays a crucial role in the local economy by creating high-quality jobs, fostering entrepreneurship, and driving technological advancements that have a direct impact on our community. The lab's work in areas such as maritime technology, climate change, and disaster resilience is particularly noteworthy, as it directly aligns with Hawaii's unique geographical and environmental needs.

In conclusion, the Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawaii is an invaluable asset to our state, our nation, and the global research community. Its continued support and expansion are essential for maintaining Hawaii's leadership in innovation and ensuring that we remain at the forefront of addressing the challenges and opportunities of the future. I strongly encourage continued investment in and support for the ARL to enable it to continue its mission of excellence in research and development.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Kasidet Saisudsawat

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kasidets65@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL-UH-Letter-Kasidet.pdf (22.1 kB)

Dear ARL-UH Team,

I'm truly grateful for the amazing support ARL-UH has given me, especially through Dr. Noah Hafner's mentorship. As a Master's student in Computer Science at Naresuan University, I was lucky to have Dr. Hafner as my mentor while he was here in Thailand.

My research goals are develop a semi-automated pneumatic sensor system for measuring xylem embolism in plants for drought resistance analysis. Dr. Hafner's expertise has been crucial to the advancement of my research project. His mentorship has encompassed not only technical guidance but also experimental design, data analysis, and project management. Dr. Hafner's knowledge of solenoid valve operation and his contributions to refining my experimental procedures have significantly improved the overall quality of my research.

The knowledge and skills I have gained from Dr. Hafner's mentorship are invaluable. His ability to simplify complex ideas has allowed me to make substantial progress in my research. The collaborative with Dr. Hafner has cultivated in me the importance of critical thinking, problem-solving, and determination. If this research is finished, it will provide the biology department with a valuable tool for studying and analyzing drought resistance, which is important to addressing the global challenge of drought.

I would like to thank you for ARL-UH's dedication to supporting international research collaborations. The opportunity to work with Dr. Hafner has been an exceptionally rewarding experience, and I am confident that the knowledge and skills I have acquired will be beneficial in my future pursuits.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Kasidet Saisudsawat

Master's Degree student in computer science

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Your Name (required) *

Kainani Santos

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kainanisantos@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

See attached document for testimony.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

20240902_borTestimony.pdf (25.6 kB)

September 2, 2024

Aloha University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

My name is Kainani Santos, and I am submitting this written testimony in wholehearted support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i.

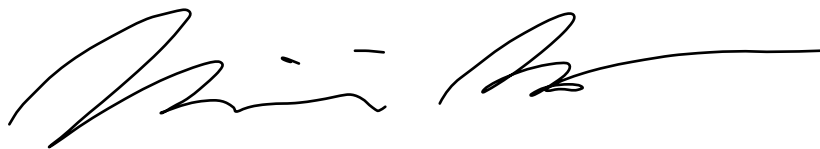
I was raised in Hawai'i, graduating from Waipahu High School in 2015, continuing my education at Leeward Community College (ASNS, 2017), and completing education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where I earned my BS (2020) and MS (2022). The ARL funded my MS research in maritime robotics and developing design rules for operationalizing an uncrewed surface vehicle for integration with commercial off the shelf side scan sonar systems. I am honored to be a graduate of the University of Hawai'i system, a local member of the State of Hawai'i workforce, and a role model for local youth to pursue a career within the State. I believe that Hawai'i is in a critical position to encourage its youth to not only gain advanced research skills, but also in advanced manufacturing and solidify its place as a self sustaining center of knowledge. If given the opportunity, I intend to spend my career with the ARL and the UH System to pursue this goal.

My four years with the ARL have included multiple research and engineering projects which include:

- Developing a test range of surrogate sea-disposed ordnance and clutter for technologists to evaluate the performance of their specific technology with uncrewed surface vehicles.
- Developing a sensor platform for characterizing the marine environment during the wake of a humanitarian aid and disaster relief scenario.
- Developing a training system for the Navy Battery Charging Lab technicians to gain familiarity with operating a remediated battery system.
- Modifying an undersea communications system to demonstrate data communications from the seafloor through starlink and back to a terrestrial ground control station.

The ARL is involved in other large research projects that I have not mentioned nor contributed toward. These include wave energy harvesting, engineered reefs for attenuating coastal wave energy, sensor development, cybersecurity, high-performance computing, and astronomy. These contribute toward the six core competencies of the ARL: astronomy, ocean research, sensor development, remote sensing, renewable energy, and mission related research and development. Notably missing from this list is the research, engineering, and development of weapons. More importantly, employees of the ARL would never condone the development of weapons. Following this written submission, I encourage further discussions between the ARL, our partners, the greater UH system, and community members on how the ARL can further serve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kainani Santos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kainani Santos

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Your Name (required) *

Sujittra Sarakon

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

sujittras61@nu365.onmicrosoft.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Sophie Scopazzi

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

sscopazzi@pm.me

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I recently concluded as 12-week summer Engineering Assistant internship at the Applied Research Lab (ARL). I'll start about the internship, because what the ARL does is awesome. They select from an applicant pool open to high school, undergrad, and grad students. This meant I was interning right along with two soon to be seniors in high school, undergrads from all years, and I was the lone masters student this year. I just graduated (31 July) with a masters in Operational Oceanography from Rutgers University. In my past I've done multiple different internships for different organizations, on land or on ships. I say that because I've experienced a lot of different organization's intern programs, and the ARL's stands out to me. To lead the summer internships they have a dedicated person in charge of the program who did an excellent job of communication, weekly meetings and check-ins, smoothing out any potential bumps before they became an issue.

She was not alone in her task either. Whether it was the engineers, HR, IT, or anyone else, literally everyone in the office as more than willing to lend their support to our education. I'm not speaking with hyperbole. I felt welcomed and included, because everyone took time to teach me about something. I learned surface mount component soldering. I learned how to design a printed circuit board. I incorporated sensors into the MiSo platform, expending my knowledge of Arduino and C++ programming. I learned about GNSS satellite modules and how to get centimeter level accuracy from a platform. I was able to test sensor platforms in the real world and not just in a lab.

The internship at the ARL opened my eyes to so many more places I could go. I'm a US Coast Guard licensed 3rd Mate Unlimited, so I jumped at the opportunity to attend the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Exchange in July. I got to hear from and talk with the leadership of RIMPAC, the Director of Military Sealift Command, and many others who are involved in one way or another in the Indo-Pacific region. Through the ARL I've also been able to get involved with working with non-profits doing work on the Marshall Islands, among other island nations in the region. Through my time at the ARL my worldview has been greatly broadened to encompass so much more important work that is needed for the people of the Indo-Pacific, and also the world in general. People of our nation of course, but also humans of this planet.

The ARL is the best place of networking cross-talk between different organizations that I've ever come across. The ARL sits in an incredibly important position between sometimes competing interests - military and academic. It's a UARC and is thus afforded broad opportunity and ability to work with and for the government. It's university affiliated - based at a university - that is a place of learning. A place of looking into ourselves, teaching one another, to better understand and care for our world. And the ARL's work meets this lofty goal, of satisfying both sides of the same coin.

Especially in the years to come, places like the ARL are in dire need. People from diverse backgrounds, local to Hawai'i and from the mainland, come together to help solve the plethora of problems facing the state of Hawai'i, the Indo-Pacific region, the United States, our allies, and ultimately humans on this planet. The ARL's work to help clean up munitions is incredibly important.

The ARL does so much good not just for the state of Hawai'i, but for our nation, and for our world that I sincerely hope it continues on for years to come. Day-in and day-out everyday people - teachers, engineers, administrators, IT professionals, project managers - work together on making the world a better place to be in.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Scott D. Thorpe

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawai'i

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

SDTHORPE1@HOTMAIL.COM

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and the Board of Regents,

I provide this testimony as a private citizen in full support of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). In my professional capacity I serve as a Scientific and Technical Intelligence Liaison Officer at the ARL at UH. I have lived in Hawai'i for four years. My family have become members of the community: my wife is an elementary school teacher for the Hawai'i Department of Education; my daughter is a student at the University of Hawai'i; and my son attends high school here. I am a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired federal law enforcement Special Agent.

University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs) are crucial for several reasons, particularly in the context of national defense, technology development, and academic research. The following highlights their importance:

1. **ARL at UH Bridges Academia and Government:** ARL at UH serves as a vital link between UH and government agencies, particularly the Department of Defense (DoD). They leverage the expertise of universities to address complex challenges in areas like national security, defense technology, and public policy.
2. **ARL at UH Provides Long-Term Research Capabilities:** Unlike typical research contracts, UARCs are established with a long-term vision. This allows ARL at UH to develop deep expertise and advanced capabilities in specific areas, leading to sustained innovation and technological advancement. The ARL at UH is leading innovation in the emerging fields of robotics, artificial intelligence/machine learning, adaptive manufacturing, and environmental monitoring.
3. **Focus on Critical National Needs:** UARCs are tasked with focusing on research areas that are critical to national needs. This includes cybersecurity, advanced materials, renewable energy, and more. ARL at UH's work directly contributes to maintaining the technological edge and security of the nation.
4. **Access to Specialized Expertise:** ARL at UH has unique resources, such as specialized laboratories, top-tier researchers, and advanced equipment. ARL at UH enables the government to tap into this expertise in a structured and ongoing manner.
5. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** UARCs encourage collaboration across various disciplines, integrating knowledge from different fields to solve complex problems. This interdisciplinary approach is often essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges that arise in national defense and other critical areas. ARL at UH's work supporting POST FX alongside the US Indo-Pacific Command is a prime example of this collaboration.
6. **Workforce Development:** UARCs play a significant role in developing the next generation of scientists, engineers, and researchers. By involving students and early-career researchers in high-impact projects, they help cultivate the skills and knowledge needed to meet future challenges. Since 2018 ARL at UH has directly hired 85 students; sixteen high school students and 69 college students. Fourteen percent of the student interns transitioned to part- or full-time employment with ARL at UH after they graduated.
7. **Independent Research:** UARCs maintain a level of independence from the government, allowing them to provide unbiased, objective analysis and recommendations. This independent perspective is valuable for making informed decisions on complex issues.

Overall, UARCs contribute significantly to the advancement of technology, national security, and academic research, making them indispensable assets to both the government and the broader research community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the ARL at UH.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Charlene Tom

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ahbedahbe@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am providing this testimony to strongly support the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i.

Born and raised in Hawai'i, I am a graduate of Kalani High School and a 1993 graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, having received a BFA in Graphic Design. I have been employed by ARL since December 2018 and work as the Event Planner.

Working at ARL has given me the opportunity to work in a place that I greatly enjoy. However, more importantly, I have the opportunity to work with people of diverse backgrounds and knowledge, not only here on O'ahu but also on Maui and the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Brennan Yamamoto

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

brennane@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see attached "20240902_borArISupportTestimony.pdf" for testimony in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

20240902_borArISupportTestimony.pdf (70.9 kB)

September 02, 2024

Aloha University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

My name is Brennan Yamamoto, and I write this testimony to strongly support the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i.

I was born and raised in Hawai'i, graduating from Moanalua High school in 2009, and subsequently earning my mechanical engineering BS (2013), MS (2015), and PhD (2019) degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The ARL partially funded my PhD research in maritime robotics and immediately hired me as a full-time robotics engineer, where I have worked until the present. I am a proud product of the State of Hawai'i, graduate of the UH system, and an advocate for diversifying opportunities for the next generation of talented kama'āina to work in advanced research in the islands. I believe that Hawai'i should be a *leader* in maritime robotic systems and related ocean science, and if given the opportunity, I will spend my career with the ARL and the UH system pursuing this goal.

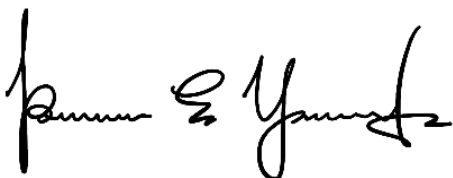
In my past five years with the ARL, I have worked on multiple research and engineering projects. Some of these include:

- Development of robotic systems for automated topographic mapping, bathymetric seafloor mapping, and detection of sea-disposed ordnance.
- Development of low-cost oceanic sensor platforms for maritime-domain environmental sensing and early-warning systems.
- Development of robot systems for hull corrosion inspection.
- Cybersecurity for robotic computer systems.
- Rapid prototyping via additive and traditional manufacturing for naval systems and vehicles.
- Development of a multi-split ventilation system for COVID-19 emergency response.

The ARL oversees other large research projects that I am not personally involved in. These include wave energy harvesting, engineered reefs for attenuating coastal wave energy, sensor development, cybersecurity, high-performance computing, and astronomical observations. Research in these areas are essential for public safety and preserving Hawai'i's unique maritime environment, and would not be possible at their current scale without research and development funding support from the Department of Defense.

The ARL has not and will never conduct weapons research. The ARL can only execute research projects under our Navy sole-source IDIQ (indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity) contract if that research is related to one more of our six core competencies: ocean research, astronomy, sensor development, remote sensing, renewable energy, and public service. More importantly, the exceptional people at the ARL would never allow weapons research to happen. I encourage further discussion on how the ARL, our partners, and the wider UH system can more transparently serve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brennan Yamamoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "Y".

Brennan Yamamoto



UARC/ARL agenda item from the August 30th agenda

1 message

Stephen Gima <ssgima2@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 6:39 AM

To the Board of Regents,

Regarding the subject, I sincerely hope that you will vote in favor of preserving the UH's ability to continue to apply for and win contracts such as the UARC/ARL Truthfully, RCUH and the UARC has provided a rewarding engineering career for me on Maui, allowing me to afford a home to raise my family. Now with two kids in college, my financial obligations are at a maximum and I look forward towards the renewal of UH's contracts so that I can continue to live my dream of living and working on Maui. So please vote in favor of allowing UH to do UARCs.

Thank You All,
Stephen Gima



Testimony, BoR Agenda Item: IS-IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii

1 message

Ed Knobbe <ed.knobbe@spectrum-photonics.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 2:47 PM

UH BoR representative:

I submitted testimony in support of the UH ARL, but did not receive confirmation of successful upload, so I am submitting testimony by email as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

thank you.

-Ed-

Edward Knobbe, Ph.D

President

(c) 808-748-1709

Spectrum Photonics, Inc.

1012 Piikoi St.

Honolulu, HI 96814



Knobbe Letter to UH Regents_support of ARL_20240903.pdf
273K



1012 Piikoi St.
Honolulu HI 96814
www.spectrum-photonics.com

3 September 2024

Statement of
Edward Knobbe
President
Spectrum Photonics

Regarding the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii

Testimony provided to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Spectrum Photonics is a small, high technology company whose core business is largely based on intellectual property in the area of remote and standoff detection technologies licensed from UH. First established in 2008, we currently have 18 employees, many of whom are UH graduates. I am pleased to add that we have become one of the State's leading performers for contracts issued under the US Government's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Many of our programmatic successes trace directly to contributions by UH and the ARL.

We have had the privilege to work with Dr. Edwards and her team on several occasions. ARL brings subject matter expertise in many important areas, especially including the verification and validation of remote sensing methods. Much of our recent work involves the development and deployment of remote and standoff sensing systems suited for deployment from robotic platforms, including aerial and maritime applications. The ARL's knowledge of unmanned platforms, as well as depth of knowledge regarding operations across a range of relevant environments, brings much-needed expertise to these demonstration events. The ARL is well-known to Spectrum's DoD technical managers, and the ARL's inputs are frequently solicited by DoD program managers.

The sensor technologies which Spectrum seeks to transition is extremely important for force protection and personnel security applications. Under funding from the DoD's Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND), Spectrum has developed and demonstrated remote detection systems to be used in next-generation chemical threat identification and early warning capabilities. Spectrum's sensors are now beginning to be transitioned to the field, where the technology will ultimately save lives. Because these sensors also have numerous non-military applications, ARL is also uniquely supporting the creation of dual-use technologies.

The ARL is an important resource to the UH System and to the State of Hawaii. The range and depth of knowledge in areas of science and technology are extremely germane to the education mission of the University. In addition to fostering the educational experience of UH students, the ARL also provides an essential locus of expertise across the academic, government, and private sector domains, offering a critical and growing economic benefit to the State. We look forward to many more years of outreach and interaction with the UH ARL faculty, staff and students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward T. Knobbe".

Edward T. Knobbe, Ph.D.
President
Spectrum Photonics, Inc.

Aloha

1 message

Marisa Pangilinan <marisapangilinan@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 2:08 PM

September 3, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: **Marisa Pangilinan, Windward Community College AA graduate**

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.**
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I SUPPORT the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available **ARL Presentation:**

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007. [<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.
2. Boycott! Adhere to the [PACBI guidelines](#) for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .
4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.
5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.
6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.

“Where attention goes, energy flows”



Written Testimony for the UH Committee on Institutional Success

1 message

Waileia Tupou <wtupou@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 11:04 AM



Written Testimony for the UH Committee on Institutional Success.pdf
99K

September 3rd, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Waileia Tupou, Ethnic Studies Student

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalized and advances U.S. imperialism destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

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Sources:

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- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24:*
tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007.
[<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Robert Lee

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

bobleehnl@msn.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

UH ARL supports their faculty and students (technical workforce development for Hawaii).
UH ARL works hard to establish collaborations that address important challenges facing the State, Nation, and the world
UH ARL is an economic benefit to the State, in present day and future dollars
UH ARL creates many dual-use technologies

UH BSME 1971
UH Exec MBA 1983

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Mills Dunlap

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jmdunlap@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As an RCUH employee who works as an interface for the ARL and the environment in which they do their research, I see firsthand some of the cutting edge technology they put to work and adapt for commercial or civil use. The technology they employ has clear applications to workforce development and training. There is a desperate need for UH to stay current with technology and engineering and the ARL is an incredible avenue for those studies. Some of the larger scale projects the ARL has taken on, such as hybrid reefs and climate adaptive technologies could greatly benefit the state and its ecosystems by protecting resources and discouraging erosion and protecting property from storms. Detection and neutralization of sea-disposed munitions is a topic that is out of sight and out of mind for many lay people but is clearly an important project to protect people and property. In a state where we are overly reliant on fossil fuels for energy, why

would we discourage or eliminate opportunities to seek out renewable energy sources? The ARL has a responsibility to stay at the forefront of cutting edge technology and apply it in a way that we can all benefit.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Monique Chyba

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

chyba@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

The ARL has been instrumental to the training of our students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have a strong partnership between the department of mathematics and ARL. They provide real applications for our students and faculty members to work on collaboratively and it has been incredibly productive. The ARL mission is of utmost importance and they have a superb leadership. I could not endorse the lab more strongly, it is an exceptional addition to the University.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Kelly James

Your Organization (optional)

RCUH

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kellyaj@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR,

I provide this testimony as a private citizen in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). In my professional capacity I serve as an Information System Security Officer at RCUH on Maui. I have roots going back 50 years on Maui and it was always my dream to come to Maui to be closer to family. While pursuing my Bachelor's Degree, I took the leap and have been living here full-time for the past seven years. Upon graduation, I was disheartened by the limited tech job opportunities available, as many positions were focused on serving the influx of tourists. I had to work in other industries and seriously considered leaving Maui and my family to advance my career. Then, I noticed an opportunity at ARL/RCUH that matched my aspirations.

I take immense pride in my work and look forward to each day at the office, where I am surrounded by dedicated peers. The satisfaction of knowing that my work directly impacts researchers and scientists using our supercomputers is deeply fulfilling. Attending industry conferences and learning about new technologies that enhance our cybersecurity in the Pacific or deepen our understanding of space, I am aware that my colleagues at ARL/RCUH are pivotal in these advancements. I regularly attend project briefs to gain insight into ARL's initiatives and am continually inspired by the ambitious projects underway. I see a promising future for myself at ARL that extends beyond my current role. My job satisfaction and sense of purpose are profoundly linked to the existence of ARL/RCUH, which has afforded me the chance to contribute to transformative projects and find personal fulfillment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the ARL at UH.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Cynthia Franklin

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

cfrankli@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
FROM: Cynthia Franklin, UHM Prof. of English, SFJP@UH member

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F:
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

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- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: [tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15](https://www.tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15)
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007.
[<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Joseph Pickard

Your Organization (optional)

GSI Hawaii

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jpickard@gsisg.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see my testimony regarding UofH Board of Regents testimony ISO ARL 3SEP24. Please get back to me soonest if for some reason my testimony did not appear.

Very Respectfully,
Joseph Pickard
Chairman, GSI Services Group
jpickard@gsisg.com
808-221-7722

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

UofH Board of Regents testimony ISO ARL 3SEP24.docx (524.8 kB)

Joseph G. Pickard, born on December 4, 1956, in the small plantation town of Kahuku, grew up in humble beginnings, earning the nickname "the barefoot boy" due to his lack of shoes. Raised by grandparents who were illiterate, Joseph took on significant responsibilities at a young age, assisting his grandfather with financial tasks such as cashing paychecks. Despite these challenges, he was determined to pursue higher education and become a successful businessman.



In 1978, Joseph graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. The following year, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and was stationed at various bases. By 1985, he had earned both a Master of Industrial Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University. His career spanned several prestigious companies, including First Boston Corporation, Ko Olina Resort, and Leo A. Daly & Associates.

In 1995, Joseph founded Environet, Inc., a small business that faced early challenges but eventually thrived, becoming a Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) Disadvantaged Business and successfully graduating from the program after nine years. In 2003, he acquired Community Planning & Engineering, Inc., a well-established Hawaii company, and both enterprises now employ over 100 community members.

Having achieved his goal of becoming a successful businessman, Joseph turned his attention to supporting Native Hawaiian children in accessing higher education. In January 2003, he established Environet International, Inc., a Hawaii domestic non-profit, which was later renamed the Native Hawaiian Community Development Corporation (NHCDC). After a period of inactivity, NHCDC began to make significant strides in 2007 with the formation of Greenwave Solutions, Inc., a for-profit subsidiary that later became GSI Pacific. This company, certified as an SBA 8(a) Disadvantaged Business in 2009, provided opportunities for contracting with the Department of Defense and enabled NHCDC to own multiple 8(a) companies.

In April 2011, NHCDC acquired DAKMI Enterprises, Inc., a Hawaii-based company specializing in solar water heating installations and repairs. The company was rebranded as GSI Americas Inc., shifting its focus to energy-related services. GSI Americas is currently undergoing the 8(a)-certification process. In June 2013, NHCDC incorporated GSI Atlantic Inc. in Connecticut, with plans to submit its 8(a) application in early 2014.

Throughout these endeavors, Joseph has personally pledged his assets to secure bonding, credit lines, and financial support for the for-profit companies, ensuring their viability. Without his involvement, these companies and NHCDC would struggle to obtain the necessary financial backing to sustain operations.

Under the SBA's Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) program, NHCDC is required to demonstrate how it has assisted Native Hawaiians. Joseph ensured that NHCDC's Bylaws clearly outlined its commitment to promoting and providing educational opportunities, supporting programs that benefit Native Hawaiians and their descendants, and facilitating higher learning, scholastic achievement, and scientific and technological research.



In 2011, NHCDC made its first awards, totaling \$45,361. The following year, \$9,750 was awarded, and in 2012, the amount increased to \$106,142. Below are examples of our work in support of U of H Applied Research Lab. Mahalo.



environmental
engineering

remediation

planning &
permitting

site
investigations

munitions
research

MEC

construction



**Hawaii Undersea
Military Munitions
Assessment**



**Ordnance
Reef Remedial
Investigation**



**Waikane
Valley UXO
Detection
and
Munitions
Constituent
Study**



**Makua Military
Reservation
Phytoremediation**

Hawaii Undersea Military Munitions Assessment



Project Highlights:

- Development of all project plans (SAP, QAPP, HASP)
- Development of integrated, innovative experimental design to be used as a template by the DOD for similar work throughout the United States
- Water, sediment, and biota sampling using three-man research submarines
- Coordination with multiple laboratories and data validation firms
- Construction and maintenance of a project website (www.hummaproject.com)
- Preparation of summary report

Project Description:

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Environet were awarded approximately \$3 million to conduct the Hawai'i Undersea Military Munitions Assessment (HUMMA). This program supported the U.S. Department of Defense's efforts to assess the potential risk to human health and the environment of an historic munitions disposal site located about 5 miles south of Pearl Harbor.

Sea Disposal Site Hawai'i (HI-05) was the primary focus of HUMMA's efforts. Historical records show that after World War II approximately 16,000 M47 100 pound bombs, each containing approximately 73 pounds of the chemical agent mustard, were disposed at HI-05. Environet and the University of Hawaii developed a systematic approach for locating; bounding and characterizing deep water sea disposal sites; and assessing the potential impact of sea disposed munitions on

human health and the ocean environment, and of the ocean environment on sea disposed munitions. This program will serve as a template for developing cost efficient methodologies for use at other sites of similar or deeper depths.

In early March, 2009, the HUMMA project team visited the study area with remotely operated underwater vehicles and three-man research submarines to dive directly down to the identified disposal sites and to confirm the presence of disposed military munitions. Munitions were found in trails, which confirmed the hypothesis that munitions were dumped off ships as they steamed forward. Any munitions object encountered during this investigation was visually assessed for casing integrity and records were sent off to experts for munitions type identification. Water and seafloor sediment samples were collected in the vicinity of the identified disposal sites and at control sites away from the identified disposal sites. Samples were shipped to mainland laboratories for analysis for explosives and chemical agents and their breakdown products to assess any potential impact of the undersea munitions on human health and the environment. A separate field effort was launched in April, 2009 to collect human food item biota samples from where the submersibles collected water and seafloor sediment samples. Onaga and ama ebi were caught by using the same methods that commercial and recreational fishermen use.

"University of Hawaii's School of Ocean Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) and the quality team it assembled exceeded our expectations performing an extremely complex study with scientific rigor. By providing the Army with demonstrated, proven procedures for characterizing and assessing a munitions disposal site, SOEST has made a significant contribution to the Department of Defense's understanding of the potential effects of historic sea disposal sites on the ocean environment and those that use it."

-Mr. Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health

Ordnance Reef Remedial Investigation



Project Highlights:

- Multifaceted, multidisciplinary project (Environmental and UXO)
- Underwater munitions assessment
- Hazard assessment & planning

- Coordination with the University of Hawaii (UH) Applied Research Laboratory and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Community & client coordination regarding a sensitive resource
- GIS database of sampling locations relative to munitions
- <https://ordnancereefhawaii.org/>

Project Description:

In 2006, the United States Departments of the Army and the Navy funded a survey of Site HI-06 off of Oihāhu, Hawaii, locally known as Ordnance Reef, an area of shallow fringing near-shore reef that was used as a disposal area for discarded military munitions following World War II. This study determined site boundaries, the quantity, type, and locations of munitions present, collected and analyzed sediment and fish samples, and generated a screening level survey of the data suggesting that contamination from munitions did not pose a threat to human health. Subsequent review of the 2006 study by community members as well as state and Federal resource agencies identified several data gaps requiring further investigation. The USACE Pacific Ocean Division identified remaining study questions and engaged local experts to design and conduct the follow-on investigation. Environet assisted UH in conducting a remedial investigation and risk assessment of Ordnance Reef. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also contributed to the ongoing research effort by deploying sensors that will monitor ocean currents in the area.

The Ordnance Reef Remedial Investigation, awarded by USACE to the UH Applied Research Laboratory, has been designed to fill gaps identified in the prior investigation and address the potential impact of seasonal variations on conditions at Ordnance Reef. As part of the investigation, samples of sediment, seawater, and human food item biota were collected from Ordnance Reef and shipped to mainland laboratories to be analyzed for chemicals of concern including energetics and metals. Sample locations were prioritized based on a hierarchy of decreasing level of anticipated risk to human receptors prior to any sampling taking place. In order to separate the influence of Discarded Military Munitions (DMM) from other potential sources of contamination, samples were collected from nearby areas subject to wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) effluent, non-point source (NPS) pollution discharge, and from a relatively undisturbed (control) area. Samples were collected during two seasons of the year to evaluate differences that may be caused by variations in rainfall or wave regime during the summers and winters. This project has also involved working with a commercial analytical laboratory, with guidance and input from the Ordnance Reef Coordinating Council, to refine the standard suite of analytical tests typically used to look for energetics compounds so that they are applicable to Hawaiian biota species.

The first Ordnance Reef contract is complete, and has resulted in the generation of a comprehensive data set of sample results, a GIS database of sample locations in proximity to munitions objects, and a series of technical memos and presentations to the community and applicable resource agencies summarizing the work progress to date. Development of the Remedial Investigation report, including a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment, is ongoing under a separate follow-on contract.

Environet has also been tasked with assisting UH in collecting additional samples from Ordnance Reef following the Army's largest 2011 technology demonstration; during which a remotely operated underwater munitions recovery system was used to remove select munitions from the area. Environet's role will be to assist UH in assessing any impacts to the environment as a result of the removal action.

Cooperation and Responsiveness
 This extremely high-profile project has required a concerted effort to satisfy multiple stakeholders including the USEPA, State of Hawaii DOH, State of Hawaii DLNR, and the community along the Leeward Coast. To date, all issues raised by the resource agencies and the community have been successfully navigated.

Waikane Valley UXO Detection and Munitions Constituent Study





Project Highlights:

- Coordination with the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii
- Sampling of soil and analysis for energetics compounds
- Conduct Risk Assessment

Project Description:

Hawaii has a number of active and transferred military training areas that have been contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO). The government has continued the complex task of remediating these lands of the explosives hazards, but the process is slow and expensive. There are public concerns about the status of the water and soils on and near these lands, and questions about how they are affected by both the chemicals present inside the remaining UXO as well as large pieces of explosives (energetics) which can remain in or around an area following low order detonations. Very little emphasis has been given to the assessment of area groundwater, soil contamination, and the resulting risk to humans and the environment from these munitions constituents (MC), especially in sub-tropical volcanic soils. Environet is supporting the Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawaii (UH) in conducting their "Pacific Island UXO Detection and Munitions Constituents Study" for Night Vision Labs, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Environet, in collaboration with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at UH, was responsible for selecting a suitable area of study within the Waikane Valley Training Area (WVTA) on the island of Oahu, known to be contaminated with UXO. The UXO site survey included a review of previous reports and studies of the area and field reconnaissance to discover or confirm site conditions and UXO contamination levels. We sent clearance teams to the site to survey, flag, and clear any MEC items within a 40-acre area, accompanied by sampling personnel who collected soil and soil pore-water samples for analysis for energetics compounds. Environet also provided research about the physio-chemical properties of the soil that was expected to be encountered at the site.

Environet recommended appropriate methodologies for the collection of samples and the analysis of samples for measuring residual explosive (energetic) chemicals in a report for the ARL at UH. Finally, Environet will conduct a risk assessment utilizing the results of the laboratory analysis to determine the potential human and environmental risk posed by MC at the UXO site sampled.

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Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Jill Nunokawa

Your Organization (optional)

Personal Capacity

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

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Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2013/07/19471-mysterious-navy-research-lab-at-university-of-hawaii-is-up-for-stealth-renewal/>

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=1094>

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=1094>

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL BOR test September 2, 2024 Nunokawa.docx (80.0 kB)

September 3, 2024

TO: Lauren Akitake, Esq.
Chair, Committee on Institutional Success
Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i

FROM: Jill Leilani Nunokawa, Esq.
Individual Capacity: Community Advocate, First Amendment
Practitioner, Collective Consciousness Promoter, and Truth &
Reconciliation Facilitator

Aloha Chair Akitake, Vice Chair Miyahira and Members of the
Committee on Institutional Success,

I am submitting this specific written testimony and additional
supporting documents on Agenda Item:
IV, F: Presentation of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the
University of Hawai'i.

As I stated on February 15, 2024, to the Board of Regents, I am
troubled by the blatant lack of transparency and conflict of interest
regarding non-publicized and non-disclosed Department of Defense
contracts (past and those currently in negotiations) signed by UH
President David Lassner as the Principal Investigator and as the
University of Hawai'i President. The UH President is required to
authorize and agree to any extramural funding contract over 1 million
dollars.

On February 9, 2024, in front of the Committee on Higher Education
in the State House of Representatives, Chair Amy Perruso asked a
series of questions to VP of Research and Innovation Syrmos
regarding this obvious conflict of interest the UH President had. These
pertinent questions were not answered and the UH President was not
present at the hearing. VP Syrmos did respond regarding the blatant
conflict of interest and stated, the UH President did not have a conflict
of interest, rather it was a conflict of commitment. VP Syrmos also
admitted during Regent Abercrombie's tirade on February 15th, he
was the Principal Investigator for the first proposal of UARC.

I have consistently asked this Board, what do you know about the truth regarding ARL at UH? Have you done an audit of the extramural funding received and expended by ARL at UH? Are you aware of the current and past problems at ARL at UH regarding budget cover ups, forced resignations, unfair labor termination, and blatant violations of Labor laws? How will the Board of Regents of the only PUBLIC institution of Higher Education in Hawai'i reconcile its mission, stated objectives and strategic plan(s) while simultaneously being an University Affiliated Research Center (UARC), which conflicts and contradicts UH's mission, stated objectives and strategic plan(s)?

What is your fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of the State public trust regarding investigating, auditing, and holding the UH President legally and morally accountable for DOD contracts, sub contracts, task orders, conflicts of interest, budgetary scandals, mismanagement & misuses of funds, cover ups in Labor law requirements at ARL at UH, which include, but are not limited to the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) renamed the Vanguard Center, the Disaster Center of the Pacific, and all UH affiliated campuses or connections with the DOD with any contractual obligations? When will the Board of Regents mandate the transparency of the DOD renegotiated contracts be made public and placed them on the Board Agenda for public feedback, questions, input and statements prior to the final agreement(s) being signed, which will bind UH to another five (5) year duration period? UH was supposed to establish the UARC via sole source contracts because UH does not compete for these contract renewals, has this been completed and can the public receive this information without filing a Freedom of Information Act request?

At the same Board meeting that I questioned ARL at UH and UARC in February, along with others including UH Students, Regent Abercrombie responded with a 15-minute impassioned speech defending his honor and integrity as a member of Congress when UARC was established, funded and also when UARC was renamed to ARL at UH and funded. He vehemently objected to the ASUH resolution and stated he “personally resent {ed}” any inference that he or Dan Inouye or Dan Akaka or Patsy Mink would allow or agree to research that “terrorized people” or weapons. After Regent

Abercrombie aggressively admonished and intimidated the students, he bolstered the UH President's credibility by stating that it's not unusual at all that a President of an institution was also the Principal Investigator, especially with President Lassner's expertise is in the "Cyber world". Regent Abercrombie then stated, "I can't tell you about the classified research and I won't! I've sworn an oath, certain classified material the reason it's classified is because it involves Cyber Security, testing missile defenses and by definition you want to talk about proprietary, it's proprietary alright. When members of the Armed Service Committee had to go into closed sessions to go over exactly what we were doing and why we were doing it and what we expected to come out of it.

Virtually all the research that's being done has a dual purpose, I am right about this David, right?

A dual component, it has a commercial and civilian implication and the money is coming from the Department of the Defense BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS. That's what we were able to do, we were able to involve ourselves with Cyber Security and I will keep it very general here and I'll tell you what else was done. How do you think that we were able to take the national resources we have on Oahu and elsewhere. The National Resources Management in this State got its start with the Congressional Delegation led by Senator Inouye, Danny, Patsy and myself. How do you think it's at Schofield? We got it started out there. We were able to utilize the resources of the National Defense Authorization Fund to say the military doesn't exist out here and the rest of us are down here somewhere. This was civilian control of our military expenditures and our military posture. The military doesn't tell us what to do in the Congress of the United States and certainly never told us what to do and certainly didn't tell me what to do when I was chair of the committee. I was personally responsible as Chair of the subcommittee for many of the research proposals that come here. I understand that people can have their concerns whether or not there's been a usurpation of authority in the United States as a result of what politicians have done but I can tell you that the United States Military does not try to assert itself against civilian control in this country and not with the Congressional Delegation I am talking about was in charge. That's for damn certain. I am proud of the fact that the University of Hawai'i had the kind of talent in our faculty and in our staff to be eligible for these grants. The Vice-President can confirm

this. The research and innovation didn't waltz into the Pentagon and say, 'by the way we're here to pick up the dough'. That's not the way it works, you have to compete. You have to write the grants, you have to be eligible for them and the competition for them is fierce, is it not? (VP Syrmos, "fierce"). Fierce! We win because we have the talent in this State, we will because the University of Hawai'i has the kind of talent, faculty and staff that wins over and over and over again because of that talent and the character and integrity of the results that they produce so advise ASUH go back and do some more research about what it is we have set up institutionally here and I suggest before you start maligning the name of the President that you start understanding how it is there grants are proposed and how it is they are implemented and why they are under the kinds of restrictions that they have because of the security of the United States is what is at stake and believe me the reason I am so concerned about it right now is there are politicians in this country right now that don't seem to understand that the security of this country is not something to continue to use for political purposes. This university and this administration has acted correctly and with forethought, it was total professionalism in every single grant that has come its way to the ARL or for the UARC. I will stake my reputation and my word on that."

VP Syrmos then stated, "Regent Abercrombie was instrumental in the establishment of the ARL." He then answered Regent Tochiki's question by stating that as President, being the PI on large contracts is not part of his job. He continued to state President Lassner works "24/7 in this two large projects: the Maui High Performance Computing Center and the Pacific Disaster Center and he is the PI on and there are two unbelievable talented directors that they run the projects, they run day to day operations...yes, one could say this is not part of his job but"

Regent Abercrombie followed up, "This is his professional expertise. Yes, he's the President and I wish he wasn't the Chancellor too, but in terms of his professional expertise. I don't think because he's the President he's supposed to take his professional background and put it off to the side some place and pretend it doesn't exist. It is crucial. We are very fortunate to have someone with his academic credentials

to be involved in these two areas and by definition only the Department of Defense can fund this.”

Regent Nahale’a expressed how “trust waned horribly” and how to lead with such little trust. He wondered how to get the facts out, educate and discover so we can institutionalize the facts. He took to heart whether this body really knew what research UH was taking and he wanted to be more informed and better understand the more sensitive ones and maybe that’s where they can get the facts.

I continued my testimony by stating, “I would like it to be noted, since everyone is getting things noted for the record, that I believe we are at a very crucial part of history and I am asking that our Regents don’t continue to repeat history. We have an opportunity to do things like have a Board of Regent policy on Peace. People might disagree with me about the concept of peace. I am talking about peace within our university, the purpose and the strategic plan that’s from 2023-2029, which is in direct contradiction to the DOD strategic plan for the UARC. These are irreconcilable so at some point the Board of Regents will have to make a determination how will you reconcile the mission and purpose of a public University? How will you keep its purpose public? Never mind peaceful? We have a very strong military installation and military purpose that runs through this State and that’s not my testimony today. My testimony with regards to trust as Regent Nahale’a talked about, about Board governance, which I brought up in my last testimony, about trust and relationship with the legislature and never mind what else I brought up which is the U.S. Supreme Court and how far removed they are from really what’s happening in everyone’s daily life. So are we going to be a relevant Board of Regents that really listens to students’ concerns, faculty’s concerns, are we going to look at what kind of President we want in the future? Do we want one that has a significant conflict of interest because that is not the mission and purpose of our public university. It just isn’t. We are not a war machine, we are not part of a war machine, we are not. To the degree Regent Abercrombie has been excessively passionate about how they won, won, won well I think in history right now, I would like to look at the issue of peace. I would like to look at Palestine and have a cease-fire. I would like to have a peaceful and civil society that our kids can be raised in and we could engage each other not bullying tactics and the ego stuff, not the

justification stuff. This is a public university, the beneficiaries are the public. When you classify work that our faculty does it makes it for the military. The beneficiaries are not the public when that happens. So, I am asking the Regents to start looking a little bit deeper into the understanding of what our purpose is as a public university and how we can really promote and embody peace.”

On February 16th, 2024, I testified in front on the Board of Regents and expressed my gratitude. I then stated, “I wanted to say a few words about yesterday’s committee meetings and to try distill it into why we are here at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo and what is the purpose of our education...it’s about generational education, it’s about people who will reside on our archipelago and what are the values? I do believe the majority of haumana who attend the UH system have no idea of what’s really happening and I am reminded of last month’s meeting at West-O’ahu and one of the haumana was celebrated and Regent Abercrombie had asked the haumana whether he was out of the cave and it begs question of Plato’s allegory of the cave. The path of all of our enlightenment, our empowerment, and that’s part of malamalama, that’s part of what we try to instill and encourage as beacons of hope and light and love and I think sometimes we can get distracted, or diminished or diverted from really why we are really here. I know why I am here and I know why I spent my time doing this work. I was recently at the opening of a cave, on a different island. It was very dark so I had to turn on my own ku’u lama ku, my own torch to make it down to the bottom of the cave and when I got down there, all I found was myself. When I turned back, thinking I would have to use the light, I could see the light at the very top so at the bottom of the cave what Plato would talk about is the ignorance and our role in raising our consciousness is to find our own path of enlightenment, of empowerment and sometimes as I’ve said as leaders, I’ve talked in front of the City Council, Legislature, the United Nations, all over. Our haumana will look towards our leaders, to our alaka’i and ask in this time of history how did you lead us? What were the decisions you made? I will talk at lunch and next month and month after that with the same message “Maluhia” Peace, Education, the seeking of truth and knowledge. You’re our leaders so I kindly and respectfully ask to think of those choices as we move forward and the purpose and the mission of the University of Hawai’i.”

Later the same day, I testified how much I appreciated being in Hale Kihō'ihō'i. I stated, "Ten months ago, I delivered Aunty Pua Kanakaole and her 'ohana and other experts paper called 'Ki ho'ihō'i Kanawai'. I am not sure if any of the Regents actually read it, but I am going to actually encourage you to read it again. I think it is important because I agree with Lanny and I don't even know him. There seems to be a clash of not just culture but of priorities and how we are going to move forward as a university. You heard my first three minutes and my three minutes yesterday, but these three minutes are going to sound different. I will read a few haiku that I wrote.

Public for sale
UH secrets revealed
Military owns

More, more, more of war
The more war, the war of more
The forever war

I happy to think that the people who are going to be on the advisory committee are watching this zoom because I would love for them to begin to do and delve into relationships between the University of Hawai'i, RCUH, and ARL at UH. These relationships are shrouded in secrecy and the lack of transparency, the lack of accountability, lack of disclosure, lack of honesty, lack of information, to make an informed decision it is impossible for meaningful discussion, consensual decisions, because of the utter lack of process and the misuse of power. Some regents and administrators pride themselves so deeply on their nostalgic rendition of raging against establishment, only now to be the very ones who manipulate and bully their special interest agenda through narrow and rigid misrepresentations of law, policy and rules all of this grandstanding misrepresents their nefarious intent of militarizing and privatizing our public institution, the University of Hawai'i. One regent challenged and was actually bullying some of the students yesterday to do research. I am going to ask kindly and politely for the regents and the search advisory

committee to do research too. One of the regents has not been on the Congress for over 14 years so doesn't really understand the current relationship that is happening between RCUH, ARL and UH. I am asking this Board and the search committee to delve into that because our next President has an opportunity to review and to see whether the UARC is compatible and is part of our Public Trust, our Public Institution, our public way forward, our purpose. I believe it is not to be bought out by military, to do military task orders and to take our intellectual property and use it simply for military task orders and not to benefit the public. So please consider that and I know some Regents might have a response because we are limited to three minutes by this process. When my Dad was on the Board of Regents, this was not the process and we were not limited to three minutes and there was a discussion with Regent members so I am going to ask the Regents to consider talking with us and not just blasting on 22 year old students about their backgrounds. That's not what our university is about. We are here to encourage student participation, education and research, not to attack them. Please keep that in mind Regents."

On March 21st, I testified in front of this Board and stated, "The Board of Regents has oversight over Administration, specifically the President...I understand the Board, you eat what you're fed. You get information, you read it and you have action items. You are busy, you work two jobs maybe, raising children, per diem Judges, I understand and I also understand fiduciary duty. I understand the heart and na'au you each carry because you want betterment for our society specifically for our haumana. So let's talk about that: As Kainoa said, ARL at UH went in front of ASUH to answer questions, in that the Director (Margo Edwards) stated this Board of Regents is well aware of the operations, the budget, and the task orders that are occurring at ARL at UH through RCUH and UH as a system and well aware of the renegotiation process that the PIs are going through, specifically the President and that you're well aware of this. Given this fact, I am asking as a member of the public, a community member, a concerned member that the Board of Regents present to the public what you know about what's occurring with the Department of Defense money coming right through the UH system. So you folks would have an understanding so therefore you could hold yourself accountable as you're holding administration accountable as you're holding people who make statements to both the students, I see Civil

Beat is here, thank you Chad, but we have to begin the road of accountability. We have to put pixels together so we can see the big picture, not just eat the same thing over and over again ...school lunch. It's the variety. It's to understand what's really happening and to have transparency, disclosure, accountability. I don't think that's radical, I think that's what is needed."

My second testimony on the same day began with a haiku: Braving honesty, deep breaths truth telling moments, freedom's clarity. I continued on to state, "I agree with Regent Wilson, thank you for bringing up the concept of trust. I agree it's more than the issue of given, and that's it's earned. Sometimes it's taken and we're told to just trust, trust the process, trust what's going on and when are presented with facts, when you're given evidence and I am more than willing to present to this Board for longer than three minutes about the ongoing Title IX violations, I am more than willing to talk to you about the DOD contracts, ARL at UH and RCUH. If you're really interested in different parallel realities and eating something different than you're fed by this administration than please take me up on my offer...Please don't be bamboozled, we are moving forward to a new Presidential search. That means extra due diligence, extra fiduciary duty, and not just a reliance on how it has been, but as the President himself says we are not looking back. So let's move forward, means addressing the Title IX violations, it means addressing the renegotiation of the Department of Defense contracts that you understand what's happening and there's accountability and transparency, and Regent Wilson, let's earn some trust shall we."

I also testified on April 18th, at the Board meeting when some regents were censoring students. I stated, "The hopefulness we have is I participated last month in an invitation only group to talk about where we were going to be in Higher Education in fifty (50) years. In those discussions that were amazing and awe-inspiring for me, which is a lot, we were not talking about militarizing and privatizing public universities. We were talking about empowering students. It's a chance to reset, re-calibrate and re-prioritize what we do at our public institution of Higher Education. We are encouraged to prioritize our students. I know UHPA has come forward to say the number one priority for the next President, would be: research. The legislature

doesn't agree and they came down hard on this Board of Regents to say classifications: teach, teach, teach. Get our faculty in there and teach because our number one priority is to teach our next generations. Kodomo no tame ni, for the sake of our children, that's why we're here. When that is in direct contrast and it's irreconcilable with some of the movement under this regime including this type of censorship so I am keeping my comments within the student success area so I don't get censored, but when you start to believe and understand that for the sake our children means our students, these students. I will ask for a moment of silence for the children that died in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, the Gaza strip, Ukraine, the children that have been bombed to really think about what our mission is at this public university, so a moment of silence please. Kodomo no tame ni."

My May 2nd testimony included the following statement, "The Department of Defense in its proposal to construct and operate the Air Force known as the AMSTAR facility on Maui. The DOD development would consist of up to seven (7) telescopes on Haleakala. The DOD already has system contracts through UARC to have the Air Force up there also at the Maui High Performance Computing Center. Also, the President is the PI on large DOD contracts. The Strategic Plan is in place and I've written part of it up here for your visual understanding. One of the commitments and imperatives and written goals attempts to address and reconcile many injustices in the State of Hawai'i, which would include that no one really wants to talk about some of the things that happened with the military. Part of the illegal overthrow of the sovereign nation, the bombing that happened at Pu'uoloa, the destruction and obliteration of water resources on Kaho'olawe and Kapukaki (Red Hill), the ongoing bombing in Makua Valley, the arguments of expansion at Pohakuloa, and occupation and control of approximately 25% of the land mass of this archipelago. "To play an active role in the reconciliation of injustices" means we, as the Board of Regents and this university, must prohibit further destruction and development of the Department of Defense, through its military task orders through our university. So, building more military operational facilities and using UH is in direct conflict with what's up here. This is so familiar to me, because in 1999 many of us were at UH-Hilo and we were testifying against more developments of telescopes and that's when Auntie Pua

Kanaka'ole Kanahale said that Mauna a Wakea was Moku o Keawe's version of Kaho'olawe and we have witnessed that in 2019. To ignore what's really occurring in our present moment and I want to address a couple of things. I want to address personal experiences and preferences. I am reminded of a story my Father told me many years ago about Jack Burns. When the issue of whether the Governor was going to veto the right to have an abortion for women in the State of Hawai'i. He thought hard and he wasn't sure what to do because he was a very staunch and practicing Catholic and in the end, he did not veto that bill. The story is an analogy for Board of Regent members. I understand that you might have very strong personal opinion and a history and I thank you for your service Regent Wilson. The point is, what is your role as Regents today? This is the issue. How do you reconcile your strategic plan with the ongoing build up of and the renegotiation by your President of up to \$700 hundred million dollars in the Department of Defense money through the university. You are going to have to figure out how you're going to do that. Metrics away, Kuleana away, have whatever you want as your Strategic Plan, but ultimately you must place your personal opinion and your background to the side and you must make a decision based as a Board of Regent member and you don't have this kind of conflict and this aggression towards Pro-Military when you can't reconcile it with your own strategic plan."

In part of my May 16th, Board of Regent testimony, I stated, "We have suffered from serious conflicts of interests by having the UH system President serve as the Manoa Chancellor. I will refrain from going through the lengthy list of negligence. Moreover, the most disturbing conflict of interest is not our President's dual roles, but his ongoing secret commitment to the Department of Defense mission and task orders as the Principal Investigator on the largest contracts, one of which expires with NAVSEA at the end of this month. This renegotiated contract does not need Board approval, like the prior other ones, it is disingenuous to suggest that in the future the Board will arbitrarily agendize the UARC contract and/or ARL at UH's role in this huge DOD contract. The Air Force DOD contract comes up next year for renegotiation. As stated by the Air Force representative at the public hearings on Maui this week, the Air Force has no relationship with UH regarding this proposal for seven (7) telescopes on Haleakala. We know this not to be true...I want to finish with a

couple of things for clarification since I never get to speak once you folks talk. I was at the April Board of Regents meeting at Kapi'olani Community College. I have been in front of this Board consistently for over a year. I have testified on things that were committee reports. We were never censored prior to talking about UARC, the Department of Defense renegotiation or anything with this President and the DOD conflict of interest. It was only at the April meeting was it stated by this Chair that he was going to get an opinion my guess is from General Counsel, on whetherlet me please finish and that's exactly what went down please review the video of that meeting. I am asking that we have a written opinion from wherever you ask for the opinion because we have prior practice suggests that the public could speak on committee reports and last but not least, I where this shirt because I was a Public Defender on Maui for many years when Kaho'olawe was actively being bombed. My clientele suffered inter-generational trauma by watching and listening that their own aina was being bombed and desecrated by U.S. Military. That's why the meetings this past week talking about the Air Force and the continuation of the expansion of the U.S. Military hits home because Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kaho'olawe are directly impacted by this and it is our request that this Board agendize and not wait for an already signed renegotiated DOD contract with your President, but agendize at your next Board of Regents meeting so that the public can be heard on this issue on whether the University of Hawai'i through its strategic plan, its mission and its goals allows for the Department of Defense money to increase to over \$700 million dollars in the next five (5) years and whether during that same time whether that is reconcilable with your Committee on Kuleana and your commitment to Native Hawaiian reconciliation."

On June 6th, I testified in front of the Board committee and stated, "I have noticed you have audited the Children's Center and I find it incredibly, not just incredibly ironic but appalling. What I don't see on your agenda for the next coming year is an audit of the ARL at UH, an audit of the UARC, especially when you've been put on notice that your President/Principal Investigator is in the midst of renegotiating huge NAVSEA and Air Force contracts to the amount of about \$700 hundred million dollars. You would think the Board of Regents would want to audit that; how much in, how much out. One last thing, yesterday the Maui County Council did something

phenomenal, they took a stand for the people and they passed Resolution 24-103, which the President and current interim Chair Lee will get a copy of, which came out for and on behalf of the many, many citizens of Maui saying A'ole Pono, No more telescopes, no more Air Force telescopes on Haleakala. So, there is a very vast difference from what's happening at this Board of Regents and what's happening in your community. I've said it many times that you don't want to get to the point where you're irrelevant, where the U.S. Supreme Court makes decisions that are not based on stare decisis."

HISTORY & PROTEST AGAINST THE UARC

The University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) were established in 1996 by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, UARCs function under the Department of Defense at a few designated universities aimed to ensure that specialized capabilities are available on demand to its military agencies. The DOD has a history of scientific and engineering collaboration with universities during the Second World War, today's UARCs are hidden and undisclosed in classified research and have created and maintained the "military-university industrialized complex", illustrating how militarized knowledge production emerges from within the academy and without public knowledge, student and faculty awareness or effective consultation and University governance, oversight and approval.

UARCs demonstrate the military build-up of weapons, weapon applications, technological warfare, advanced energy warfare, electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) warfare, (using electrical energy instead of bombs and bullets to attack the enemy), programming for increased warfare, advanced radiation including frequencies and wavelengths and more like Space Force, all of which provide the essential nexus for all aspects of warfighting, in military operations around the world. In the article published in the NDU Press, "Modern Electromagnetic Spectrum Battlefield", Stephanie Ricciadi and Cedric Souque review this modern battlefield and quote the Joint Doctrine Note 3-16, which defines the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) as "the range of all frequencies of electromagnetic radiation. The electromagnetic radiation consists of oscillating electric and

magnetic fields characterized by frequency and wavelength.” These can be visible and invisible and they state, “EMS is at the heart of modern military operations and is the essential link between the land, air, naval, space, and even cyber domains. At the base of all operational functions (remote sensing, telecommunications, navigation, etc.), it also enables the delivery of offensive and defensive effects through electronic warfare (EW) or signal intelligence (SIGINT). and one of the less visible yet vital ways in which these students’ institutions help perpetuate the cycle of U.S.-led wars and empire-building.”

There has been many articles and debates on the ethics and morality of UARCs and I encourage you to read, marinate and become more informed regarding the actual operations and university administrative collusion in UARC task orders and classified research at a minority of universities across the nation.

This hotly contested debate and immorality washed onto our shores in 2004. I was serving on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) at the time, as UH administration was secretly and silently moving its military agenda forward. UH Administration was caught by surprise and President David McClain’s office was taken over by protesters demanding UH withdraw from UARC negotiations with the Department of Defense. UH Administration back pedaled as the protest mounted, but President McClain still proceeded forward and presented to the Board of Regents an action item to grant provisional approval to the establishment of an UARC at UH-Manoa. This debate and controversy spilled into the legislative arena.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education. March 29th, 2005 By Dr. Gary K. Ostrander Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa SCR 238 / HR 173 Urging the University of Hawai‘i to Abandon the University Affiliated Research Center Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Committee on Higher Education: Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon on HCR 238 / HR 173. The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, was recommended as the fifth University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) of the Navy in July of 2004. This is the first UARC that the United States Navy has designated within the last 58 years. The other four designated

UARCs are: the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, the Applied Research Laboratory at the Pennsylvania State University, the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington, and the Applied Research Laboratories at the University of Texas at Austin. The impetus for the recommendation was the growth in the quality and quantity of research at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa that was of interest to the Navy. In Fiscal Year 2004 the University of Hawai‘i received \$54 million dollars in sponsored research from the Department of Defense. The proposed UARC represents a unique funding opportunity for the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. It will allow us to further enhance our research profile in areas that we have demonstrated excellence and in doing so will broaden the base of support for the research enterprise.

There have been significant discussions and deliberations around the UH-Mānoa campus on classified research. As these discussions are concluded, and if there are changes in existing policies regarding classified research, the administration will work with the faculty and the Board of Regents to develop/formalize UARC-related policies. These policies will protect the rights of faculty members to make a choice as to the research they decide to pursue as well as the right to refuse participation. The resolution appears to misquote the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate by stating that the Senate opposed “the development of more classified research...”. The resolution on classified and proprietary research recently passed by the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate states: “Be it resolved that the Mānoa Faculty Senate affirms that the University of Hawaii at Mānoa support only research for which there is a reasonable expectation that timely publication of the results of the research will not be restricted by its sponsor.”

At this point, the Board of Regents was compelled to hold public hearings on the UARC provisional agreement. These are the minutes of one hearing:

**MINUTES UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I BOARD OF REGENTS
INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE PROPOSED
UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTER** January 20,
2006 I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by
Chairperson Kitty Lagareta on Friday, January 20, 2006, at 1:03 p.m.
at the Campus Center Ballroom, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Attendance Present were Regents Andres Albano, Jr., Byron W. Bender, Michael A. Dahilig, Ramón S. de la Peña, James J. C. Haynes II, Allan R. Landon, Ronald K. Migita, Jane B. Tatibouet, and Myron A. Yamasato; Interim President David McClain; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board David Iha; and Executive Assistant Carl H. Makino. Regent Alvin A. Tanaka was excused. Also present were Mr. Walter Kirimitsu, University General Counsel; Mr. Sam Callejo, Vice President for Administration; Dr. James Gaines, Interim Vice President for Research; Dr. Denise Konan, Interim Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; Mr. Presley Pang, Associate General Counsel; and others. Proposed University Affiliated Research Center President McClain explained that over a year ago, the Board had granted provisional approval to the establishment of a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) for the U.S. Navy at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa campus. Before granting final approval, the Board required the campus to complete work on a contract for the proposed center and complete the consultation process. He affirmed that both conditions have since been met. He had promised to have the Board hold a meeting on this at which the campus and community could share their perspectives on the proposed UARC. He would be recommending a course of action to the Board at its February meeting Chancellor Konan said that the UARC proposal has been a divisive and contentious issue at the University of Hawai‘i. She asked the campus community to conduct this open meeting with civility and respect. She said that an open forum has to be maintained where people can have a deliberative dialogue around difficult issues. With academic freedom comes responsibility. She thanked and commended the Board of Regents for wanting to personally hear from the campus community and others. On November 18, 2004, Chancellor Englert requested that the Board of Regents approve the establishment of an applied research laboratory and the designation of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa as a University Affiliated Research Center. At that time, the Board of Regents approved the UARC, provisional on the successful negotiation of a contract and completion of consultation with key stakeholders including the Mānoa Faculty Senate. The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has negotiated a draft UARC contract with the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command. In its present form, the proposal would establish an applied research laboratory that is integrated into the research infrastructure at the UH-Mānoa campus.

This contract defines scope of work in terms of four core competencies: C Ocean environment C Astronomy C Advanced electro-optical systems, detection systems, arrays and instrumentation C Fundamental research and applied engineering The UH-Mānoa administration has also engaged in extensive consultation with multiple stakeholders. The draft contract has been made available for review and discussion by anyone who wishes to see it including countless individuals both on and off-campus who have offered their opinions about the UARC and, of course, also including: C UH-Mānoa faculty as represented by the Mānoa Faculty Senate C UH-Mānoa students as represented by the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i (ASUH) and Graduate Student Organization (GSO) C Native Hawaiians as represented by the Kuali‘i Council C University’s research community, deans and directors Universities are places that thrive on debate. Knowledge and the advancement of society are based on the free exchange of ideas. Such has been the campus discussion over the UARC. Those opposed to the UARC view it as an institutional relationship with the U.S. Navy that would promote military research on campus. Publication restrictions and the potential for research to become classified were of concern. The debate also involved the level of start-up investment required to implement the UARC, campus oversight and administration, Native Hawaiian values, and so forth. Others back the UARC, arguing for the academic freedom of faculty to seek research funding. The expansion of funded research has supported the University even as tuition revenues and state funding remained stagnant. These faculty are an important part of the University’s campus community. She added that of the top one hundred faculty attracting extramural funding, a large share support the UARC proposal. There is a concern about a slippery slope if barriers are put up on faculty research that may be controversial or unpopular. While most of the UARC supporters will not use it as a funding instrument, they realize how difficult it is to maintain a stream of competitive funding to support research programs, equipment, and staff. January 20, 2006, p.3 Few faculty have expressed an interest in actively participating in UARC-funded research. She spoke with a couple of potential researchers and for them, the UARC could provide bridge funding among other more competitive sources of funding. Additional staff, equipment, and facilities would need to be secured to support UARC research. Should projects become classified, they would be moved off campus

following policy. The proposed UARC is unique as it integrates projects into existing facilities and permits dual use of UARC-funded personnel and equipment. The Naval UARCs at other universities are located in self-contained laboratories and facilities at some distance from the core academic corridor. As this UARC proposed a new model for the relationship between the U.S. government and a university, negotiations were time-consuming. Were a UARC to be established, a management structure would need to be put into place to assure necessary safeguards for national security interests within the context of an open academic campus environment. The M~noa Faculty Senate conducted an exhaustive review of the proposed UARC. An ad hoc committee compiled input from across campus. The review included a detailed legal analysis of the particular conditions of the proposed contract. At the core of the debate was an examination of M~noa's mission and how to promote the future of the university as a research university. While the Faculty Senate's 31-18 decision reflects divisions on this issue, the collective wisdom clearly does not support the advancement of the contract that is being proposed. Faculty input is advisory and not binding. However, to advance the UARC when the faculty, undergraduate student body (ASUH), Kualii Council, and others are opposed would undermine the governance of the campus. Chancellor Konan said that she is firmly committed to the ability of individual faculty members to pursue defense-related research and funding. Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the university. She added that it is her obligation, and the imperative of the university, to maintain a collegial environment that is free from threat and intimidation. Faculty will continue to engage in naval research at the university. The UARC was negotiated in good faith and she said that she is grateful to Vice Chancellors Ostrander and Cutshaw for the work they have put into this project. Chancellor Konan said that she wanted to let the Board know that this was a difficult decision for her to make. She weighed in the balance of the multitude of interests and opinions. There are merits in the efforts that were set forth. She considered the costs and the benefits to the University of Hawai'i carefully. In the end, she concluded that the proposed UARC with the U.S. Navy is not in the best overall interest of the UH-Manoa campus. C The center is not supported by our governance groups. C It would be difficult to implement a UARC which is integrated into the January 20, 2006, p.4 existing campus facilities. C There are a limited number of faculty researchers who

have made a clear commitment to participate in the Center. C Dual-use of our laboratories and facilities is problematic. Advancing the proposed UARC is not in the best interest of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She recommended to the Board of Regents and to President McClain that the contract that has been proposed is not pursued further. The leadership from key UH-Mānoa governance groups asked to make statements on behalf of their organization before public testimony commenced.

1. Robert Bley-Vroman, Mānoa Faculty Senate Chair, said that there is a concern for maintaining the integrity of the consultative process. The fabric of governance begins to break down when the Board asks for consultation and if it should act against this advice or if the President should recommend a course of action which could be perceived as being in opposition to the Chancellor.
2. Jonathan Osorio, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies, said that he strenuously protests the creation of a UARC at the University of Hawai'i, especially in the face of opposition by Native Hawaiian leaders, the Faculty Senate, the faculty and the Chancellor of Mānoa.
3. Katie Berry, ASUH, said that the ASUH, since May 2005 after consultation and extensive research, has decided to considerably oppose the proposed UARC. Regent Dahilig asked Ms. Berry what steps ASUH took to come to the decision of opposition back in May 2005 and whether the current Senate that is in place now has taken any kind of vote on this proposal. Ms. Berry responded that the current Senate has not taken any kind of vote. There have been discussions and no opposing resolution was introduced by any of those who may have felt differently from the prior Senate. She said that the current Senate felt that the prior Senate was consulted vastly, including consultations with then Chancellor Englert and Vice Chancellor Ostrander and the resolution went through several committees as well as different student constituents who were all invited. It took over 500 signatures in order for that resolution to pass.
4. Carl Takamura, Executive Director, Hawai'i Business Roundtable, which is an organization composed of about 50 CEO's of leading companies in Hawai'i, said that members of the roundtable believe that it would be in the best interest of the University and the State of Hawai'i as a whole for the Board of Regents to conduct a thorough analysis of the potential benefits and risks to the establishment of a University Affiliated Research Center within the University of Hawai'i system. The Hawai'i Business Roundtable suggests that the Board consider alternative organizational

models that will mitigate the concerns of some within the academic community. January 20, 2006, p.5 5. Noel Kent, Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, said that the M~noa faculty, Chancellor, students and native Hawaiian communities have spoken clearly and decisively that this University should not pursue a UARC designation. The University lacks the capacity to effectively manage the project, that the upfront costs might only be recouped after years, if ever, that classified research violates longstanding policy and would corrupt research in general and that further militarizing this University is a betrayal of its mission and strategic plan. 6. JimTollefson, President, Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, which is an organization of about 1,100 businesses employing approximately 200,000 employees across the State, said that the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i supports the establishment of a UARC within the University of Hawai'i system to enhance the work force and economic development in the State of Hawai'i and to support the military, a major contributor to the economy of Hawai'i. 7. June Shimokawa, Church and Society Division of United Methodist Church, Hawai'i District, said that the Church and Society Division was in opposition to the designation of the University of Hawai'i as a UARC with an applied research laboratory for the purpose of entering into a contract with the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command. 8. Tony Castanha, Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the Save UH, Stop UH Coalition, said that he is an active opponent of the establishment of the UARC since the beginning of last year. He strongly urged the Board of Regents to reject the proposal should it be placed before them. 9. Kyle Kajihiro, Program Director, American Friends Service Committee, said that there was an article in the UH-Manoa's newspaper, Ka Leo, on March 2, 2005, regarding a possible mismanagement of classified military contracts at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) and the University of Hawai'i. He said that it is now known that at least three contracts are under investigation, two are Navy research contracts to the University of Hawai'i and one is a direct contract to RCUH. He added that the UARC "core competencies" include the same research programs and technologies that are subjects of the Navy criminal investigation. The irregularities and questionable elements of the Navy's UARC procurement cast doubt over the legality of the UARC and urged the Board of Regents to reject the UARC and cancel all plans and negotiations. 10. Marti Townsend, former University of

Hawai'i student, said that she is in opposition to the UARC. 11. Luciano Minerbi, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, said that he is opposed to the UARC and requested that the Matsunaga Institute for Peace be restored. 12. Jon Van Dyke, Professor, School of Law, testified that this proposed relationship between the University of Hawai'i and UARC will violate Section 378-2 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. January 20, 2006, p.6 13. Eric Szarmes, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, said that this proposed UARC differs from all others in being integrated with the other research enterprise of the University, limiting access to other sources of government funding and requested that the Board respect the decision of the Mānoa Faculty Senate and the Chancellor's office to oppose UARC. 14. Ruth Dawson, Professor, said that the University of Hawai'i should not be in the business of developing weapons or weapon system and should not have an institutional commitment to destruction and killing. The University of Hawai'i is an educational institute and a place of research. She asked that the Board "google" the MIT Lincoln Laboratories fraud, which gives an update on the struggles that they continue to have in trying to investigate very serious fraud allegations at their own military-sponsored laboratory. 15. John Madey, UH faculty, said that when one looks at the draft contract for UARC, one finds either explicitly or implicitly in the text of that agreement in the overlying management documentation within the Department of Defense (DoD), constraints that would restrict the University's ability to cooperate with private sector contractors and competition for DoD procurement in the areas of core competency to secure funding or donations from those contractors to place UH staff members or students on the payrolls of those organizations and to provide to private sector subcontractors or donors the unrestricted patent rights that would be available to them if they were working with the University under the ground rules of conventional DoD contracts. He said that he hoped that the Board would faithfully and diligently execute its responsibilities as fiduciaries for the University of Hawai'i to read, understand, and contemplate the consequences of this contract for the University of Hawai'i. 16. Lisa Gibson, President, Hawai'i Science and Technology Council, provided testimony in strong support of UARC. She said that the Council's mission is to accelerate the growth of Hawai'i's science and technology industry to create living wage jobs and diversify the economy as well as produce health outcomes for the citizens and

provide solutions for the environment. 17. Rick Zelenka, Boeing senior executive for Hawai'i and site executive for Maui, said that they absolutely support the proposed UARC, which Boeing feels will boost employee retention and recruitment in the State of Hawai'i. 18. Joel Fisher, UH faculty member of School of Social Work, said that he is in opposition to UARC only and not to bash the military or the Department of Defense. He asked that the Board re-read the contract regarding the financial commitment of the Navy and said that there is not a single cent guaranteed to come to the University of Hawai'i from the Navy. 19. David Duffy, leader of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, said that it would be very unlikely that he would benefit in any way from UARC but believes that UARC would offer significant research opportunities for UH researchers in some areas, especially in oceanography and astronomy. He said that while UH-Manoa may no longer be the appropriate place for UARC, he January 20, 2006, p.7 suggested a system-level UARC with a realistic way for Manoa researchers to participate would be the best way to satisfy the concerns of all involved. 20. Beverly Keever, UH faculty, testified that it doesn't matter whether the UARC is at the system level or at the Manoa level, the federal regulations insist that any of the work in the UARC is viewed as classified and must be cleared through Washington, D.C. Therefore, the very best research that the University does could be hidden; on the other hand, the research that is bad can also be hidden because it is not subjected to the traditional peer review and free discussions. She said that UARC would inhibit national security and economy development. 21. Ruth Hsu, Associate Professor of English, said that she would not reiterate the reasons why UARC is not a good idea for an institute for higher education. The best thing for an institute for higher education is it can contribute to building community by producing students who are responsible and responsive citizens who think about what is best in terms of health, in terms of sustainability, in terms of peacemaking, and in terms of peace work. The UARC will not contribute to that process. 22. Peter Britos, Department of English, said that he believed that he is the only faculty member at the University of Hawai'i, if not, one of the only faculty members who has actually worked at a UARC and that establishing a UARC at the University of Hawai'i would be a travesty. He added that a university needs its intellectual autonomy. Like its professors and students, the institution needs to be able to take the right path, not the path of least resistance, not the path greased by cold

hard cash and calculated militarism. 23. Kathy Phillips, Department of English, said that it is inappropriate that a university will provide potentially lethal tools for aims over which the researchers themselves do not have control. 24. George Simson, Emeritus Professor of English, said that the one thing that is taught in freshman English all the time is to connect the premises with conclusions. Secret research of UARC will prohibit this. He added that if the University of Hawai'i were to become the U.S. university without secret research, then the UH would have a proud, intellectual, independence that would certainly attract clean and honorable outside assistance, much more than the paltry amount which the UH would probably end up with if it has a UARC. 25. Ah Quon McElrath, Emeritus Regent and former teacher at the School of Social Work, said that she is strongly opposed to agreeing to the U. S. Navy's office to create a UARC because the interim chancellor has not agreed to the proposal for a number of reasons and is in effect carrying out the stand of the Faculty Senate and because UARC will continue divisiveness of departments in the University. 26. Wai-Fah Chen, Dean, College of Engineering, said that the goal of the College of Engineering is to reach about \$10 million per year for research and UARC can help the College to sustain this vast growth. The proposed January 20, 2006, p.8 UARC provides a very important contract vehicle which will ensure that the College remains competitive and dynamic for high quality engineering education and research in the K-12 outreach. 27. Bruce Leibert, Associate Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering, said that his faculty unanimously support the establishment of a UARC at the University of Hawai'i. He said that UARC can provide increased research funding that will allow his department to continue to attract the very best faculty and researchers, increasing the talent pool of graduate and undergraduate students and obtain funding to upgrade facilities and to provide state-of-the art laboratory equipment. 28. Ronald Riggs, Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering, said that as a department, his faculty would likely not benefit from UARC but nevertheless they support UARC, which he believes will help attract good faculty and students to science and technology. 29. Galen Sasaki, Associate Professor and Chair of Electrical Engineering, said that UARC is important to his department and College because increased research funding in the science engineering technology fields means attracting faculty researchers, increasing the talent pool of graduate and undergraduate students,

gathering funding to upgrade facilities and provide state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, and sustaining a dynamic technical environment. 30. Magdy Iskander, Professor and Director, Hawai'i Center for Advanced Communications, strongly supports the establishment of a UARC at the University of Hawai'i. He said that UARC provides research opportunities and advanced technology which is really a core objective in the University's mission and added that it is clear that UARC supports research. 31. Miriam Sharma, Professor, Asian Studies, opposes the UARC because it violates the strategic plan devoted to academic freedom and intellectual rigor and it violates the specific vision, commitments and core values of the strategic plan that seeks to create a Hawaiian place of learning; a UARC is not about economics or business and it is not about creating a kinder and gentler contract; secret research and weapons development have no place in the University of Hawai'i; there will be no confidence in the administration and morale will drop precipitously as the faculty loses faith. 32. Don Thomas, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, said that he has been involved in research in one form or another for the past 35 years and that during his tenure at the University of Hawai'i, he has seen a great deal of research in the sciences as well as other fields that have been funded by the Department of Defense. He said that while he respects the rights of the faculty to express their opinions concerning the pursuit of the UARC contract, he disagreed with many of those opinions. However, their efforts to interfere with the University's entry into the UARC contract are an infringement on his academic freedom and that of his colleagues who are conducting research. He strongly supports the process and strongly supports the University entering into the UARC contract with the Navy. January 20, 2006, p.9 33. Klaus Keil, interim Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), said that he has polled his faculty and the overwhelming response was in favor of UARC, depending on the department and institute, 75 percent in favor and 25 percent against. He personally was also in favor of UARC. He said that the Regents and President McClain will have to seriously consider how a UARC, if it were here, might develop in the future. 34. John Wendell, Professor, College of Business Administration, said that the M~noa faculty did an extraordinary job of looking at the UARC contract and looking at the details. He said that he understood that the ultimate fiduciary responsibility rests with the Board but the faculty was charged with

looking at this and did a detailed job into looking at this. He said if the Board decides to go ahead with the UARC and go against the faculty, it will need to justify the decision on extraordinary grounds. 35. Henry Curtis, Executive Director, Life of the Land, said that Hawai'i has a very unique environment, very unique ecosystems, and more endangered and threatened species than any other place on the planet. He said that most scientists are conscientious and care and do a lot of great research. Research can be very good but it can also be very harmful but to say to a scientist, we will give you a pot of money, there is no transparency, there is a lot of confidentiality, whatever goes wrong, nobody will know about it until the disaster strikes, is dangerous. 36. Kat Brady, Life of the Land, said that they were in strong opposition to the University partnering with the Navy. Life of the Land currently sits on the Hickam restoration advisory board, among other military restoration advisory boards, and had to push them to look at pollution - off-shore pollution and pollution in the stream and storm drains there. They also sit on the Air Force's Central O'ahu restoration advisory board - Millions of gallons of jet fuel are missing. Pearl Harbor also has one foot of oil sitting on the top of part of the aquifer it serves 60 percent of Oahu's drinking water. The community recently learned that there is ocean dumping of chemical weapons on the Waianae Coast. She asked that the UARC contract be looked at very closely because it says that the University may get \$10 million a year for five years but there are no guarantees. She said that Life of the Land asks that the Board look critically at the role of a public university and its responsibility and obligation to the community that supports it. Secret research has no place in a publicly-supported institution. 37. Guy Ontai, retired Army officer, said that he is a professional engineer and has taught physics at Kamehameha as well as MIT and therefore has seen both sides. The most important thing is to really focus on the issues here. This kind of research is not only weapons research - research can also save people's lives. Rather than hypothetically think how evil this is, he said research can be good. Secrecy can become a reward because something unique and advanced is being done, at least in the military, and it can save people's lives. He added that there are a lot of Hawaiians serving in the military that could benefit possibly from this research. January 20, 2006, p.10 38. Laura Edmunds, law student, said that the University of Hawai'i may be locked into an ethical conflict by becoming a UARC. Classified research has been done in these islands for years

and is being done currently even without UARC and asked the Board that they not lead the University into a binding contract with the Navy that will lock the University into classified research. 39. Renee Furuyama, alumnus, said this community does not want the UARC. Its potential for destruction is too great, not only of the UH, but of this land and its people. She said that sadly, almost every member of her large extended family on the Waianae Coast has some chronic disease or cancer or has died of cancer. She said that it is only months ago that the community learned about the secret dumping of chemical warfare munitions off the coast of Waianae. She asked the Board not to expose other families with their young children to the possible disastrous effects of more military research in Hawai'i. 40. Roy Wilkens, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, said that there is a constituency that hadn't been addressed. He said that he served in Vietnam, was wounded twice, and knows what it is like to be in harm's way. He said that he has no doubt that if technology is developed to the point that could be used to defend the soldiers, it would probably become classified and would save lives. 41. Shirley Daniel, Professor, College of Business, testified in favor of UARC. She said that she is familiar with many of the challenges that UH researchers face when competing for an executing federal grants. She said that a properly negotiated UARC will provide a mechanism for non-bid contracts. The University of Hawai'i will also be recognized as a premier research institution since it will be part of an elite group. One of the things that she is very concerned about is that people who are most affected by this decision are not being represented fairly in the details. She recommended this issue be strongly considered with the advice and counsel of those researchers who are most likely to be impacted by it. 42. Iokona Baker, law student, said that he had 170 signatures of law students of the William S. Richardson School of Law in opposition to the UARC. These signatures reflect the beliefs of people who are trained and committed to advocate for people and to seek justice. The UARC conflicts with the values of the University; the Mānoa Faculty Senate and interim Chancellor Konan opposes the UARC; and the military has broken its promises repeatedly with the State and its people. 43. Larry Lieberman, Communications Director, Referentia Systems, said that he believed that opponents of the UARC or any other government-related activity play an important role in maintaining the checks and balances that are so important in this free society. He testified that Referentia Systems is a strong supporter of

UARC. The UARC offers an opportunity to join the ranks of some of the most advanced research institutions in the world and will attract top-notch faculty, produce exceptional students, and provide significant partnership opportunities for local technology companies that can lead to innovations that have significant dual use commercial potential. He January 20, 2006, p.11 urged the Board of Regents to consider the widespread benefits that UARC could bring to the University and to the community at large. 44. William Albritton, instructor at the Information and Computer Sciences Department at UH-Mānoa, said that he is a minority in the technology field because he opposes the UARC. He said that there is a lack of accountability and a potential for fraud with the UARC and spoke about a parallel example at MIT. 45. Jim Hino said that the University already has contracts with the Department of Defense. He said that he has been working in the area of defense and has done basic research and has published it. Even though the work was classified, all he needed to was strip out the classified information, and publish the remaining. In fact, he has published in journals and in various symposiums around the United States. The government, in fact, tries to get companies and universities to generate intellectual property. 46. Kenn Yuen, alumnus, said that there is a small but vibrant and growing technology community here in Hawai‘i and there is significant work done with military business. It has allowed him to stay in Hawai‘i doing satisfying and challenging work. He said that the UARC is too important for the high tech industry for him to stand silently by and hoped that the Board does the right thing. He said that he sees the UARC as a barometer for the technology industry in Hawai‘i. 47. Kelli Goodin, representing the Engineering Alumni Association, supports the proposed UARC at the University of Hawai‘i. She said that she believes the University of Hawai‘i is capable of becoming a first-rate institution for science and technology but to do this, it needs to attract and retain the best faculty and students, increase funding, improve facilities, and provide new and exciting research opportunities. The UARC will show immediate benefits to the State’s economy and, particularly, to the local engineering economy. The UARC represents a rare and valuable opportunity which the University cannot afford to turn down. 48. Meiko Arai, student, opposes UARC. She said that ignoring campus-wide opposition to UARC is unacceptable and it needs to stop; as an educational institution, the University of Hawai‘i has commitments and core

values that it upholds and classified research that UARC will conduct goes against this value and therefore hinders the integrity of this institution. UARC will not help the University of Hawai'i that promotes free and open academic and intellectual exchanges. As an educational institution, the University of Hawai'i should be known for its non-military activities and research that will contribute to a less violent world and promote peace. 49. Kevin Kelly, Center for Marine Microbial Ecology and Diversity, said that when the UARC is talked about, the other public service should also be looked at and what these researchers are really bringing to the table. He summarized a testimony by Dr. Bidigare who was not able to attend the meeting because he was at a NOAA Science meeting. Dr. Bidigare has been working with the Navy in studying algae and bioluminescence. The issue is that he could go through regular Navy broad agency January 20, 2006, p.12 announcements and competitive awards which would give him a few hundred thousands a year for a few years or through the UARC, he could get a few million dollars for five years to do the same research. He can get the research done in a shorter period of time through the UARC vehicle. He said that both he and Dr. Bidigare strongly support UARC. 50. Glenn Paige, Professor Emeritus, Political Science and the President of the Non-Profit Center for Global Nonviolence, said that in 2002, he published the first book in the English language with the word, Non-Killing, in its title which is "Non-Killing Global Political Science." He greatly empathized with the important decision that the Board of Regents is called upon to make. It will take independence and varying degrees of courage. The challenge is not simply to say no to the UARC contract but to say yes to mobilizing comparable talent and resources to make the University of Hawai'i a premier contributor to peaceful, non-violent conditions of life for the people of Hawai'i and the Asian Pacific regions over this century and beyond. He said that a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by federal employment, project allocations and the power of money is ever present and gravely to be regarded. 51. Rick Holasek, UH alumni, said that he formed a company called Novasol which has become the largest locally-based defense company in the State. Novasol's research and development work for the Department of Defense is directly tied to and leveraged off of the University of Hawai'i and employs many University of Hawai'i graduates and interns who obtain their marketable skills

through their education at the University of Hawai‘i, often associated with Department of Defense research. The UARC is a critical growth opportunity for the University of Hawai‘i, will develop significant research funding, and will attract top-notch personnel to UH and surrounding businesses. 52. Lorenz Magaard, Chair, Department of Oceanography, expressed his concurrence with Dr. Klaus Keil’s testimony to support UARC. He polled the members of his department and the majority of them were in favor of supporting the UARC. They think that UARC has the potential for strong benefits for the State and the community. 53. Kealoha Pisciotto, President, Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, was not able to personally testify but her testimony was read by Ikaika Hussey. The Mauna Kea Anaina Hou concurs with the Stop UARC Coalition’s position and recommendations and requested that the Board adopt them and wanted the official record to reflect that they have given Mr. Hussey of the Stop UARC Coalition authority and authorization to provide this testimony on behalf of Ms. Pisciotto and Alii Sir Paul Neves, who also wanted the official record to reflect that the testimony is provided by traditional Royal Order of Kamehameha I, created in 1865 by His Majesty, King Kamehameha V. Both Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and the Royal Order have been actively involved in protecting the traditional and customary native Hawaiian cultural, traditional, and religious use and access relating to Mauna Kea. The Mauna Kea Anaina Hou does not support classified research or military applied research in general because both contain a long litany of dubious January 20, 2006, p.13 and dangerous resulting impacts and effects upon the innocent and unknown. 54. Liam Skilling said that he was in opposition to UARC. If the words of the University of Hawai‘i, calling it a Hawaiian place of learning mean anything, then that means deference to the Hawaiian community on issues that matter to this aina and this community. UARC should not happen in this fragile, beautiful island environment. 55. Ikaika Hussey, DMZ Hawai‘i Aloha Aina, said it has been 400 days since the time at which UARC first came to the table and to work past the differences that have been encountered. He said he applauds the many volunteers - faculty members, community members, and students - who have spent many hours and their own monies to educate the public about this issue. He said if not for their efforts, this meeting would not have been held - there would have been a UARC approved last November. He said that he had spoken to a couple of the people who were in favor of UARC and was disappointed to hear that they

had not read the draft contract. He said that UARC is not the only way to generate money and said that the ethical and moral implications should be considered. 56. Hina Wong said that he is in opposition to such hewa like the UARC. He said that the native people continue to be ignored. The native people stand in opposition to any continued effort to put them and the land and the natural resources further to the discretion of foreigners who will come in for personal interests, for non-native-oriented interest, for gains that will never benefit the native people. He said that the Board has the responsibility to make decisions that are pono and prudent. 57. Terri Kekoolani, 'Ohana Koa Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, introduced Kaleo Patterson who said that he appreciated the idea of everyone working together for the well being of the people of this land. Mr. Patterson said that the first two churches that he served was on the island of Kaua'i and was involved with the missile defense proposal, the Star War Program. He said that this was a very difficult time for the island. He said that what he learned in the whole process was that the Department of Defense is not that in touch with the community and the needs of the community and is very concerned that the UARC will lead to further escalation of programs that will be of detriment to the people, environment, and safety. He said the Hawai'i Ecumenical Coalition was formed and many of its churches were concerned about this and there were many policies and resolutions passed going up to the national level that expressed concern about programs like this 58. Cha Smith, Executive Director of Kahea, the Hawaiian Environmental Alliance, submitted testimony in strong opposition to UARC on behalf of the 3,000 members that it represents throughout the islands , the United States and throughout the world. Kahea is an alliance of native Hawaiian environmental activists and many others who are concerned about the preservation of native Hawaiian cultural rights and about the integrity of Hawai'i's natural resources. She said that if UARC is approved, UH would January 20, 2006, p.14 no longer be considered an association striving to improve the quality of life or working to establish a Hawaiian sense of place. 59. Kiyoshi Ikeda, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, said that for the record, he was not speaking as convenor of the University of Hawai'i Commission on Diversity which promotes equal opportunity and treatment for a full range of parties assigned to the negative margins of the larger community. He said that given Professor Jon Van Dyke's representation to the Board under HRS 378-2 for aiding and abetting

discriminatory employment practices, he urged the Board to consider carefully the impact of adopting the UARC proposal under academic and campus practices in a climate involving sexual orientation. The direct and indirect negative effects of adoption are in violation of State law, requires best legal counsel to the Board, and requires careful review. What is also at stake is academic freedom in the level of transparency and open dialogues based on peer-reviewed analyses of data and writing of basic and applied research within this land grant research university setting. 60. Carolyn Golojuch, PFLAG O'ahu, said that she is a military wife who saw what military research has done. The military has actually obliterated and destroyed and evaporated an atoll all in the name of research. She said that our military has to change and the Board has an opportunity to change the world and say no more research for war. She said that the U.S. constitution should be protected by rejecting the Navy program that condones, promotes, and protects discrimination. Peace has to be the mission. 61. Johannah, graduate student at Ethnic Studies, spoke on behalf of Jon Okamura. The faculty of the Department of Ethnic Studies opposes the establishment of a Navy-sponsored UARC at UH, which is based on origins and commitment to the native Hawaiians and other local communities, many of which are against military abuses of land and people. The establishment of UARC will augment the military's presence in the islands. They asked the Board of Regents and President McClain to listen to the voices of faculty and Chancellor and reject the UARC contract. She said that she is a doctoral student of American Studies Department and said that in the tradition of social justice and the University, she reminded the Board of Regents of the University's motto - "Above All Nations is Humanity." 62. Rosalind Morris, graduate student in Anthropology, said that she is very much against having UARC at the University of Hawai'i. This is a historical moment where it would be very bad to provide a spectacle of the political and economic forces on the Board and it should consider very carefully all the opposition to UARC which would commit Hawai'i's resources and the University's resources to a force that is actually attempting to lash out and make a show of itself at the expense of others. 63. Jennifer Yoshioka, UH Student Caucus, said that they oppose the proposed UARC after considerable debate and attention to diversity of its voices that have spoken against UARC. An important role of the University of Hawai'i is to promote the free exchange of ideas to generate and disseminate knowledge and to

guarantee the right of faculty to freely publish their work. January 20, 2006, p.15 The UARC debate among the leadership of the University has been limited to the narrow fiscal questions which are porous to criticism. This is a program which would certainly cost the University millions of dollars with only a dubious return if any. The location of this UARC in the historical and geographical area of Hawai'i is of particular concern to the student body. The historical record of the U.S. Navy presence in Hawai'i from the overthrow to the half century long bombing of Kaho'olawe indicates a complete disregard for the cultural heritage and self determination of the people of Hawai'i. In response to Regent Dahilig, Ms. Yoshioka said that all of the entities within the UH Student Caucus bring their party issues which each campus has and remarkably UARC was one of the top priorities on the list. Most of the neighbor island delegates did not have a clue of what UARC was and the O'ahu delegates explained UARC to them. After thoughtful consideration, a vote was taken and the vote was unanimous to vote against UARC. 64. Manu Ka'iama, College of Business Administration, said that with the proposed UARC, it is not known whether the land, the ocean, and the skies will be protected and whether precious ancestors will be compromised. She said that her family comes from Makua and had to leave - her house was bombed and the burial site of her relatives was bombed for target practice. She said she was also representing several native Hawaiian organizations across the system and they all unanimously oppose the UARC. There is nothing in the contract that guarantees a rate of return. She added that the few people who are in favor of UARC are a small minority - the Faculty Senate and the Mōnoa Chancellor have voted against UARC - and she said that she hoped that the Board would have the courage to go ahead and see this through. 65. Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Professor, Center for Hawaiian Studies, said this issue is a very important issue to the Hawaiian community. She said that she became a tenured professor without taking any military money and her family survives on this land without taking any military money. She said that the University already receives money from the Department of Defense and classified research is not necessary. It undercuts academic freedom. She said that all the people at the Center for Hawaiian Studies, are unanimously against UARC. The American military has desecrated more land, has made more toxic waste, has caused more cancer, and has caused more upset here in Hawai'i than any other entity. 66. Karen Murray, UH alumnus, said that the

University has funding vehicles such as ORS and before the University brings any other funding vehicles to manage, it should make sure it can manage the one that it already has. The conflict of interest issues in the contract are the very issues that proponents do not seem to recognize. She said that there is depleted uranium and all the Sarin gas on the Big Island that may be contributing to the rise in cancer and other diseases. There has to be a way to come up with ways to deal with these problems. January 20, 2006, p.16 67. Vincent Pollard, UH alumnus, said that he does not have the right to do any research that he wants to do just because he wants to do it. In his research classes, he teaches students that there is an Institutional Review Board, a Committee on Human Subjects, which came about because of horrible abuses throughout the United States. He has a concern about the creeping militarization of teaching and research and said that it is time to call a stop, to say no, and to look for other forms of funding. The UH played an important role in refining and developing the most insidious and nastiest weapon in the Vietnam War that harmed not only Vietnamese but Americans and other nations that were fighting there, which is the dioxin, Agent Orange. This is secret military research; this is part of the history of UH. 68. Keli'i Collier, graduate student, said that the University of Hawai'i is the only place in the world that one can learn Olelo Hawai'i, one of the few places in the world that has an indigenous political science, graduate and Ph.D. programs and has wonderful professors. He said that there is no reason why the University should not be the leader in sustainable resources. The U. S. News and World Report's 2005 listing of America's best colleges ranks the following colleges with a UARC as follows: Johns Hopkins University (14), University of Texas at Austin and the University of Washington (tied at 46), and Pennsylvania State University (50). Some of the prestigious universities above Johns Hopkins without UARC's include Stanford, Cal Tech, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell, Browning, and University of Chicago. There is no reason why the University of Hawai'i system cannot be the Stanford of the Pacific. The Baltimore Peace and Justice Community said that they have been resisting the applied research laboratory for years but it is far better to prevent it. It also said that a lot of monies come in through the UARC and most of it is actually directed toward Naval weapons research. 69. Danny Li, UH alumnus, said that he is against UARC. The University of Hawai'i is not just a technical institution. At its best, the University

can offer intellectual and moral leadership to the community. He said that he is proud as an alumnus and as a taxpayer of Hawai'i to see the group of people named "Save UH, Stop UARC" because they represent the future of Hawai'i. These people put social justice and community concerns first. He added that the U.S. Air Force used laser-guided bombs to kill 18 innocent civilians in Pakistan. This is what laser is being used for – researchers do not know what their research would be ultimately used for. 70. Pete Doktor, public school educator, said that he was reared in the military and said that there isn't a war without casualties. As a veteran, on an economic argument, he said that it is an insult to everyone who has served or is serving or who has died to think that they served because it was good for the economy. UH is no different from the youths who are feeling compelled to join the military because they want the good things that all people who want to take care of their families need. He said that if money is needed for research and training in various areas, why can't this be funded directly instead of going to the military. If saving lives are a concern, don't go to war, invest in peacemaking. He said that UARC is a gamble January 20, 2006, p.17 and said that it is too great a risk for the University to be a part of this military industrial complex. Chairperson Lagareta said that on behalf of the Board of Regents, she thanked everyone for taking the time and effort to testify. She added that this was one of the most thoughtful discussions she had ever seen. More importantly, she thanked everyone for the environment in which this information was shared. She said that she was very proud that the University and the community could go through these very lengthy and complex testimonies in a manner that was so respectful and really demonstrated what the University is all about. She emphasized that it is important to understand that there is a process that the Board of Regents follows and that there is still a provisional approval on the table because last year, a recommendation was made to the Board of Regents by the previous Mānoa Chancellor to create an applied research laboratory on the Mānoa campus. The Board provisionally approved it at that time but said that it needed more discussion. The provisional approval allowed for input from faculty, students and staff from the University of Hawai'i and from interested individuals from across the community and State. Chairperson Lagareta said that this was an informational meeting and that no action will be taken without a new recommendation coming to the Board through the regular open process. She added that she and

the Regents will take the time to read the written testimonies that they had received prior and during this informational meeting. President McClain said that he had made a commitment in May of last year that there would be a meeting of the Board of Regents at which time all points would be aired. He said that he is on record as saying that he will weigh a lot on Chancellor Konan's decision as he goes forward but will consider all the written and oral testimonies provided. He will give a recommendation to the Board of Regents about how to proceed or what to do with this proposal during his executive report at its February meeting. II. ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Respectfully submitted, David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board

These hearings came after the interim Chancellor at UH-Manoa, Denise Konan's public statement opposing the establishment of the UARC



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I® at MĀNOA

Statement of Interim Chancellor Denise Eby Konan regarding UARC

University of Hawai'i

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Chancellor's Office

Posted: Dec 5, 2005

Statement by Interim Chancellor Denise Eby Konan

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Regarding the Proposed UARC Contract

December 5, 2005

On November 18, 2004 Chancellor Englert requested that the Board of Regents approve the establishment of an Applied Research Laboratory and the designation of the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC). At that time, the BOR approved the UARC, provisional on the successful negotiation of a contract and completion of consultation with key stakeholders including the Manoa Faculty Senate.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa has negotiated a draft UARC contract with the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command. In its present form, the proposal would establish an applied research laboratory that is integrated into the research infrastructure at the UH Manoa campus.

The UHM administration has also engaged in extensive consultation with multiple stakeholders. Universities are places that thrive on debate. Knowledge and the advancement of society are based on the free exchange of ideas. Such has been the campus discussion over the UARC.

Those opposed to the UARC view it as an institutional relationship with the U.S. Navy that would promote military research on campus. Publication restrictions and the potential for research to become classified were of concern. There is a concern about making a significant investment into establishing a military affiliated center when other core parts of our mission are neglected.

Others back the UARC, arguing for the academic freedom of faculty to seek research funding. The expansion of funded research has supported the University even as tuition revenues and state funding remained stagnant. There is a concern about a slippery slope if barriers are put up on faculty research that may be controversial or unpopular. While most of the UARC supporters will not use it as a funding instrument, they realize how difficult it is to maintain a stream of competitive funding to support research programs, equipment, and staff.

Polls of faculty across schools and colleges reveal distinct divisions among the faculty around this contract. The UARC enjoys strong support from faculty who rely on extramural funding to sustain their research programs. It has mixed to negative reaction among liberal arts faculty.

Few faculty have expressed an interest in actively participating in UARC-funded research. Those who have are renowned researchers engaged in other projects. For them, the UARC provides bridge funding among other more competitive sources of funding. Additional staff, equipment, and facilities would need to be secured to support UARC research. Should projects become classified, they would be moved off campus following policy.

The proposed UARC is unique as it integrates projects into existing facilities and permits dual use of UARC-funded personnel and equipment. The Naval UARCs at other universities are located in self-contained laboratories, with independent facilities and staff.

As this UARC proposed a new model for the relationship between the U.S. government and a university, negotiations were time-consuming and difficult. Were a UARC to be established, a complex management structure would need to be put into place to assure necessary safeguards for national security interests within the context of an open academic campus environment.

Against this backdrop, the Manoa Faculty Senate conducted a deliberate review and weighed the considerations involved. An ad hoc committee compiled input from across campus. The review included a detailed legal analysis of the particular conditions of the proposed contract. At the core of the debate was an examination of Manoa's mission and how to promote our future as a research university.

While the faculty senate 31-18 decision reflects divisions on this issue, the collective wisdom clearly does not support the advancement of the contract that is being proposed. Faculty input is advisory and not binding. However, to advance the UARC when our faculty, our undergraduate student body (ASUH), the Kuali'i council, and others are opposed would undermine the governance of our campus.

I am firmly committed to the ability of individual faculty members to pursue defense-related research and funding. Academic freedom is a cornerstone of our university. It is my obligation, and the imperative of the University, to maintain a collegial environment that is free from threat and intimidation. Faculty will continue to engage in naval research at our university.

The UARC was negotiated in good faith and I am grateful to Vice Chancellors Ostrander and Cutshaw for the work they have put into this project.

Nevertheless, the proposed UARC with the U.S. Navy is not supported by our campus. The contract remains problematic and it would be difficult to implement an integrated UARC on our campus. The proposed UARC would involve very few of our researchers. Due to the potential for research to become classified and to the significant research space constraints on the UH-Manoa, UARC-related research would more appropriately be located off-campus.

Advancing the proposed UARC is not in the best interest of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Thus, I do not recommend proceeding with the contract and will not send it forward to President McClain and the Board of Regents.

The controversial history regarding the establishment and approval of the Department of Defense's UARC at the University of Hawai'i has been and continues to be a blight on and a blatant contradiction of UH's stated mission, objectives, goals and strategic plan(s). The public outcry and deep concerns of secrecy, classified research, neglect of core components and massive conflicts of interest have come to fruition and are exacerbated by the fact that the Principal Investigator on the largest DOD contracts under the UARC umbrella serves as the University of Hawai'i System President, UH-Manoa Chancellor/CEO and has been delegated oversight and authority regarding task orders through ARL at UH, Maui High Performance Computing Center, and RCUH. There is NO oversight, authority to review knowledge content of these task orders, many of which have become or will become classified research with the new contract he has either already signed or will be signing with NAVSEA and the Air Force, or the budget and audits for compliance. All of these military-academy industrialized complex operations are secret, undisclosed, unaccounted for, lack transparency, inclusion and audit components. There were many promises made and broken regarding the establishment, development, disclosure, inclusion of faculty oversight, Board of Regents establishing specific policies and reviews of the UARC operations, safeguards for the assurance for National Security Interests within the context of an "open academic campus climate." The Board of Regents receive periodic updates on extramural funding, a cursory slide show promoting ARL at UH (UARC's name switch at UH) and closed discussions in Executive Sessions by the PI, President, Chancellor, Designee of the Board on why the Board should prevent any and all discussions pertaining to UARC, ARL at UH, Maui High Performance Computing Center, the Pacific Disaster Center, and the RCUH crucial involvement, collusion and corruption. This amounts to censorship and the utter lack of transparency and accountability at the Board level.

Furthermore, this secrecy and ongoing DOD corruption and collusion is the reason the Governor vetoed SB 1511: Relating to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i. The stated reason for vetoing, "the University of Hawai'i convened a task force to address the issues outlined in this legislation. This bill, therefore, is not necessary and will only create confusion about both the role of the RCUH and the ability of the University of Hawai'i to foster innovative research opportunities through RCUH, which amounted to more than \$300 million in the last year alone, with benefits to the State's economy and communities." There are no safeguards, monitoring

and regulations in place that define and review the relationship between the University of Hawai'i and the RCUH. In fact, the Vice President for Administration is married to the RCUH Executive Director, who used to work for the VPRI, under this current Administration.

The time has come for the Board to assume its duties and responsibilities to the people of Hawai'i and review, agendaize for public hearing, and audit the ARL at UH, MHPCC and the Pacific Disaster Center.

I am including slides of interest, questions to ask and my expertise when the Board wants to learn the truth of the "military-academy industrialize complex" at the University of Hawai'i.

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Your Name (required) *

Woochul Lee

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

woochull@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing to express my strong support for the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. I have collaborated with ARL for nearly two years, working on an internal research and development project focused on the development of off-grid solar-thermal desalination devices, supported by ARL. This project is not only aimed at providing solutions for fresh water using Hawaii's natural resources but also at addressing the global challenge of drinking water scarcity. Through this project, we have trained graduate and undergraduate students, equipping them with a fundamental understanding of local water issues and the technical skills needed to become the next generation of engineers with broad perspectives. The essential need for this project is described in the following paragraph. I hope this testimony highlights

the significant scope of work that ARL is contributing to, and the profound impact ARL can have on the UH, Hawaii, and the world.

In the face of global challenges, Hawaii stands out with its unique needs and circumstances. The escalating demand for fresh water is a concern shared by many, but for Hawaii, it is particularly pressing. This demand is not just a result of population growth or industrial needs; it is exacerbated by the increasing threats of droughts, wildfires, and the deterioration of aging infrastructure. These challenges are further magnified by the progression of climate change, which continues to reshape our world's natural balance. The quest for sustainable water sources has never been more urgent. Across the globe, various solutions have been explored, such as advanced filtration systems and rainwater harvesting. However, Hawaii possesses a distinct advantage in its environmental conditions. The islands are bathed in strong sunlight for most of the year and are surrounded by the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean. This combination of abundant solar energy and seawater presents a unique opportunity. By harnessing the power of the sun, we can convert solar energy into heat, facilitating the evaporation process to desalinate seawater. This is not just theoretical; recent technological advancements in solar-thermal interfacial evaporation have made this a tangible reality. These systems are designed to be both portable and independent of the traditional electric grid, making them adaptable and resilient. Such technology is not just a boon for everyday water needs; it can be a lifeline in crisis situations. In areas prone to water stress or those suffering from natural disasters, like Lahaina, Maui, having access to a reliable source of fresh water can make the difference between recovery and catastrophe. As we move forward, embracing and investing in these solutions will be key to ensuring a sustainable future for Hawaii and beyond.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Corrisa Heyes

Your Organization (optional)

UH Manoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

crheyas@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

cHeyes_ARLsupportLetter_20240806.pdf (110.3 kB)

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209
Honolulu, HI 96822
bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i. My experiences with the ARL have profoundly impacted my academic and professional development, demonstrating the lab's vital role in fostering innovative research and bridging the gap between academia and industry. The contributions made by the ARL to the university's overall research capacity enable students and faculty to engage in innovative projects, enriching their educational experiences and preparing them for future careers in research and industry. Additionally, the ARL's partnerships with government agencies and private sector entities create valuable industry connections, facilitating technology transfer and commercialization opportunities that further elevate the university's reputation.

My first interaction with ARL was during the 2018 MANTIS research symposium, where I volunteered in my capacity as a graduate student. This event, hosted by ARL, showcased the collaborative efforts of students and researchers from UH and other affiliated labs, bringing together experts in fields such as sensor technology and environmental monitoring. The symposium highlighted ARL's unique position as a bridge between the university setting and various government entities and contractors. It was a remarkable experience that introduced me to the dynamic intersection of scientific research and practical applications, sparking my interest in applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

ARL's commitment to community outreach enhances the university's role in public service. In 2019, I was selected for a summer internship program with ARL, which proved to be a transformative experience. During my internship, I participated in the design and implementation of several cutting-edge projects relating to radio frequency propagation. The hands-on experience I gained was complemented by career development workshops covering essential skills such as soldering, PCB design, resume creation, technical report writing, visual-digital marketing, and research presentation/public speaking. These workshops were instrumental in equipping me with both technical and soft skills, preparing me for future challenges in my educational and professional career. By addressing real-world problems through its research initiatives, ARL drives local and global economic growth and innovation. The lab's efforts in student engagement and workforce development ensure the training of the next generation of skilled scientists, engineers, and researchers.

Upon completing my master's degree in 2021, I had the privilege of working with ARL again, this time as a full-time researcher under the guidance of Dr. Noah Hafner. I joined the sensor team, where we applied the Wireless Automated Sensor Package (WASP), a project developed by ARL, to address a local need on Oahu. This study involved the strategic placement of numerous WASP chemical sensors and a weather station to track atmospheric conditions, thereby enhancing sensor data collection. Assisting with the configuration of the WASP platform to meet the specific needs of this project helped me define the type of lab I aspire to work with in the future. It provided a concrete example of a research group capable of creating a model, testing it, refining it, constructing it, and modifying it for diverse applications.

Through its academic publications and intellectual property, ARL contributes to scientific advancement, bolstering UH's mission of education, research, and service. My work with ARL not only enhanced my technical skills but also allowed me to gain invaluable project experience working with engineers and researchers. This opportunity significantly boosted my marketability as an applied mathematician.

My experiences demonstrate how ARL enhances the university's research capabilities by providing advanced research opportunities, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and attracting significant funding and resources. My time working with the ARL and the letter of recommendation from my mentor there played a crucial role in my being awarded the SMART Scholarship 2023. This prestigious scholarship will fully fund the remainder of my PhD and provide invaluable work experience upon graduation. The support from the ARL has not only facilitated my academic achievements but also paved the way for my future career in research and development, ensuring that I can continue to contribute to meaningful projects and innovations.

In conclusion, the Applied Research Lab has been instrumental in my academic and professional journey. The lab's commitment to fostering innovation, providing hands-on experience, and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration is unparalleled. I am grateful for the opportunities ARL has provided me and wholeheartedly support their mission and continued efforts to advance research and development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrisa R Heyes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' at the beginning.

Corrisa Heyes

PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering
University of Hawai'i, College of Engineering
2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall, Room 240
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Your Name (required) *

Edward Knobbe

Your Organization (optional)

Spectrum Photonics

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ed.knobbe@spectrum-photonics.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Knobbe Letter to UH Regents_support of ARL_20240903.pdf (279.0 kB)



1012 Piikoi St.
Honolulu HI 96814
www.spectrum-photonics.com

3 September 2024

Statement of
Edward Knobbe
President
Spectrum Photonics

Regarding the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii

Testimony provided to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Spectrum Photonics is a small, high technology company whose core business is largely based on intellectual property in the area of remote and standoff detection technologies licensed from UH. First established in 2008, we currently have 18 employees, many of whom are UH graduates. I am pleased to add that we have become one of the State's leading performers for contracts issued under the US Government's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Many of our programmatic successes trace directly to contributions by UH and the ARL.

We have had the privilege to work with Dr. Edwards and her team on several occasions. ARL brings subject matter expertise in many important areas, especially including the verification and validation of remote sensing methods. Much of our recent work involves the development and deployment of remote and standoff sensing systems suited for deployment from robotic platforms, including aerial and maritime applications. The ARL's knowledge of unmanned platforms, as well as depth of knowledge regarding operations across a range of relevant environments, brings much-needed expertise to these demonstration events. The ARL is well-known to Spectrum's DoD technical managers, and the ARL's inputs are frequently solicited by DoD program managers.

The sensor technologies which Spectrum seeks to transition is extremely important for force protection and personnel security applications. Under funding from the DoD's Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND), Spectrum has developed and demonstrated remote detection systems to be used in next-generation chemical threat identification and early warning capabilities. Spectrum's sensors are now beginning to be transitioned to the field, where the technology will ultimately save lives. Because these sensors also have numerous non-military applications, ARL is also uniquely supporting the creation of dual-use technologies.

The ARL is an important resource to the UH System and to the State of Hawaii. The range and depth of knowledge in areas of science and technology are extremely germane to the education mission of the University. In addition to fostering the educational experience of UH students, the ARL also provides an essential locus of expertise across the academic, government, and private sector domains, offers a critical and growing economic benefit to the State. We look forward to many more years of outreach and interaction with the UH ARL faculty, staff and students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward T. Knobbe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Edward T. Knobbe, Ph.D.
President
Spectrum Photonics, Inc.

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Your Name (required) *

Isabella Kotsol

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ikotsol@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

iKotsol_ARLsupportLetter_20240903.pdf (146.9 kB)

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

My name is Isabella Kotsol, and I am currently pursuing my PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Having grown up on Kaua'i and completed my undergraduate studies here with the Regent's Scholarship in 2018, I am deeply committed to the future of research in Hawai'i. As I look forward to a career in the research sector, ideally remaining in our state, it is crucial to me that our local research community continues to thrive and expand.

I am writing to share my wholehearted support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL). My understanding of ARL's impact comes from observing the transformative experiences of my friends and classmates who have worked there as student employees and interns. Their time at ARL has not only enriched their personal and professional development but has also sparked insightful discussions and knowledge sharing that have benefitted my own academic journey.

Leading in Innovative Research: ARL's dedication to tackling significant environmental and technological challenges is a testament to its alignment with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's mission of leading in research excellence. Projects such as their work on detecting sea-disposed munitions and advancing climate adaptation technologies are examples of how ARL is addressing urgent issues that affect both our local community and the broader world. These efforts are crucial for maintaining our university's prominence in impactful research.

Addressing Community and Environmental Needs: The work done by ARL reflects a profound commitment to solving pressing environmental issues, aligning seamlessly with the university's objective to serve and benefit our community. For instance, their innovative approach to developing a hybrid coral reef system demonstrates a practical solution to coastal protection challenges faced by Hawai'i. This type of research not only supports environmental sustainability but also enhances the quality of life for our local communities.

Supporting Professional Development: My peers' positive experiences at ARL highlight the lab's significant role in nurturing the next generation of researchers. The hands-on experience and mentorship provided at ARL are invaluable for students, preparing them for successful careers in research. The skills and knowledge gained through ARL's programs are essential for fostering a vibrant research community in Hawai'i.

Encouraging Collaborative Research: ARL's partnerships with institutions like the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology illustrate their commitment to interdisciplinary and collaborative research. These collaborations not only broaden the impact of ARL's projects but also reinforce the university's role as a leader in fostering innovative and community-centered research.

In conclusion, the Applied Research Lab is a vital component of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's research landscape. Their work exemplifies the university's values of research excellence, community service, and professional development. I strongly support ARL's continued efforts and urge the Board of Regents to recognize and sustain their essential contributions to our university and the state of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,


Isabella Kotsol

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Your Name (required) *

Lily H Okimura

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

lilyandthemachine@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 3rd, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Lily Hi'ilani Okimura, Alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu Resident

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākuā Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.
-

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15
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[<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Chazz Okimura

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

chazzokimura690@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 4th, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Chazz Okimura, Alumni of UH Manoa, Honolulu Resident

Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

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Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
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[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Waileia Tupou

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

wtupou@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Written Testimony for the UH Committee on Institutional Success.pdf (101.1 kB)

September 3rd, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Waileia Tupou, Ethnic Studies Student

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

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Your Name (required) *

Russell Laudone

Your Organization (optional)

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

Laudoner@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL Support Letter.pdf (56.0 kB)

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209

Honolulu, HI 96822

bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. ARL's efforts not only reflect but also advance the core objectives of our institution, particularly in the realms of groundbreaking research, community engagement, and professional development.

Driving Groundbreaking Research: ARL is at the forefront of addressing significant environmental and technological challenges, aligning with the university's commitment to cutting-edge research. Initiatives such as their work on detecting sea-disposed munitions and developing innovative climate adaptation solutions are exemplary. These projects not only tackle urgent global and local issues but also enhance the university's standing as a leader in impactful research.

Making a Tangible Community Impact: The lab's projects resonate with the university's dedication to positively influencing our community and environment. For instance, ARL's development of a hybrid coral reef system in collaboration with local institutions is a testament to their commitment to translating academic research into real-world solutions. This work is instrumental in addressing environmental concerns and exemplifies the university's mission to contribute meaningfully to society.

Enhancing Professional Growth and Education: My own experience with ARL highlights their pivotal role in supporting educational and professional development. During my involvement with the Load Unit for Multiple Purposes (LUMP) project in the summer of 2024, I gained practical experience and benefited from ARL's robust mentorship programs. Their focus on nurturing professional skills through initiatives like Friday Lunch & Learn sessions reflects the university's aim to prepare students and early-career professionals for successful careers.

Fostering Collaborative Efforts: ARL's collaborative projects align closely with the university's focus on interdisciplinary and community-based research. I first experienced this impact in the Nanosystems Lab, where ARL's support was pivotal in helping a peer complete their Master's studies. This support highlighted ARL's role in advancing individual academic growth. Building on this foundation of support, ARL's broader partnerships, such as with the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, extend the impact of their research efforts, reinforcing the university's role as a hub for innovation that bridges academic research with practical solutions for the community.

In summary, the Applied Research Lab is a crucial component of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, embodying the institution's values of innovative research, community service, professional development, and collaboration. I wholeheartedly support ARL's continued efforts

and urge the Board of Regents to recognize and sustain their vital contributions to both the university and the wider community.

Sincerely,

Russell Laudone
University of Hawai'i at Manoa Graduate Student

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Matthew Nakamura

Your Organization (optional)

UHM Department of Mechanical Engineering

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

mtdsn@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

MNakamura_ARLsupportLetter_20240903.pdf (60.7 kB)

University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209
Honolulu, HI 96822 bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

To the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents,

My name is Matthew Nakamura, and I am a 3rd-year PhD student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Hawai‘i. I am writing to express my strong support for the University of Hawai‘i Applied Research Laboratory (ARL). Throughout my academic journey—from earning my bachelor’s and master’s degrees to my current PhD studies—ARL has been instrumental in my growth as both a student and a researcher.

The ARL provides invaluable opportunities for hands-on learning and interdisciplinary collaboration, which have enriched my research experience and significantly contributed to my technical and professional development. The laboratory’s commitment to workforce development, through internships and training programs, prepares students for high-tech industries in fields such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and environmental monitoring. These opportunities are crucial for building the skilled workforce necessary for Hawai‘i’s future.

Beyond the university, ARL’s research directly benefits the state of Hawai‘i and its broader community. By addressing real-world challenges through innovative projects, ARL supports the state’s economic growth and technological advancement. For example, ARL’s work in environmental monitoring and renewable energy not only contributes to scientific knowledge but also provides practical solutions to issues that directly impact the people of Hawai‘i. The laboratory’s efforts to engage with local industries and government agencies ensure that the research conducted at ARL has a tangible, positive impact on the community.

To close I would like to highlight that ARL’s contributions to research, education, and economic development are vital to both the University of Hawai‘i and the broader community. The lab’s work not only enhances the university’s capabilities but also supports the state’s growth and prosperity. I wholeheartedly support ARL’s mission and its continued efforts to advance research and development at UH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the ARL at UH.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Nakamura', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Nakamura

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Van Wishingrad

Your Organization (optional)

Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

vanw@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued operations and contributions of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i. As someone who has lived in Hawai'i for the past decade and pursued a Ph.D. in Ecology here, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the remarkable work ARL has done and the positive impact it has on our community and environment.

Hawai'i is a place of unique beauty and ecological importance, but it is also a place that faces significant environmental challenges. ARL has been instrumental in addressing some of these challenges through

innovative and impactful research. For instance, their work on hybrid reefs has been nothing short of groundbreaking. By creating these reefs, ARL is helping to protect our coastlines from erosion as well as promote biodiverse ecosystems that are so vital to our way of life. This work is not only a testament to their scientific expertise but also to their deep commitment to the well-being of Hawai'i.

Another critical project that highlights ARL's dedication to the safety and sustainability of our islands is their work on neutralizing sea-disposed munitions, which serve as a constant reminder of the lasting impact of war and violence on lands and communities. This effort is crucial for ensuring that our oceans remain safe and free from hazardous materials, protecting both marine life and the people of Hawai'i.

Beyond these projects, ARL is actively involved in several other areas that are essential for the future of our state. Their contributions to renewable energy research are helping Hawai'i move towards a more sustainable and self-sufficient energy future. Their advancements in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity are positioning Hawai'i as a leader in these cutting-edge fields, creating job opportunities and fostering innovation. Moreover, ARL's involvement in wildfire recovery is a critical response to the growing threat of wildfires, providing much-needed solutions to protect our communities and natural landscapes.

As a resident of Hawai'i, I have seen the direct benefits of ARL's work in preserving and enhancing our environment and economy. Their research is not only advancing scientific knowledge but also addressing the real-world challenges that we face here in Hawai'i. The importance of their work cannot be overstated, and I firmly believe that ARL is a positive force in our state.

I urge the Board of Regents to continue to support ARL and its endeavors. Their contributions are vital to the future of Hawai'i, and their work embodies the spirit of innovation and stewardship that is so essential to our community.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Marisa Pangilinan

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

marisapangilinan@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 9, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Marisa Pangilinan, WCC graduate.

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that

weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: [tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15](https://www.tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15)
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihira in 2007. [\[https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf\]](https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf)

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.
2. Boycott! Adhere to the [PACBI guidelines](#) for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .
4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.
5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.

6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Joshua Baghdady

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jbaghdady@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing in a personal capacity to express my support for the ARL at UH. Throughout my nearly seven-year tenure as an employee of the laboratory, I can say from experience that the ARL is always striving to bring its resources to bear on the problems faced by our neighbors. The ARL at UH stands apart from its sister UARCs as the only laboratory of its kind in the Pacific, and as such is uniquely positioned to serve Hawai'i specifically and Moananuiākea writ large in the face of the many challenges confronting our region in this first half of the 21st century.

In addition to its geographical uniqueness, and all of the social and cultural kūleana that its position in Hawai'i bestows, the ARL is also unique among the Navy UARCs for its youth. In contrast to the average age of 80 years sustained by its sisters, the ARL at UH is still a teenager, having only been founded in 2008. This makes the ARL more nimble and robust to confront the host of technical, social, and environmental issues

that characterize our time. Indeed, I consider myself fortunate to be a part of an organization that emphasizes agility and adaptability in its ethos in order to rapidly respond to new and emerging challenges. I wish to see the ARLs contract extended for another 10 years to facilitate the lab's continued growth and allow it to further increase its capacity to make a positive difference across our region in these critical times.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Carson Davis

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ckdavis2103@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

My name is Carson Davis, a former intern of the Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawaii. Born and raised in Hawaii, where I enrolled at 'Iolani High School, I was hired to work over the summer of 2017.

I worked as an assistant at the ARL, digitizing paper records largely consisting of previous expense reports and short correspondences between employees. During my time of employment, the efforts of the Applied Research Lab focused on drone technology that could be used to assist local first responders for detecting hazards before they could pose threats to populated areas, or locating civilians who were in close proximity to fires with few avenues of getting away safely on their own.

While I was employed, it was clear that the orientation of the ARL was towards helping the community of Hawaii. It was known to me at the time that the ARL had established and maintained ties to the U.S. Department of Defense, but the work they did was unequivocally done with the intent of improving communities within the State of Hawaii.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Hannah Manshel

Your Organization (optional)

Assistant Professor of English, UHM

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

hmanshel@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military

operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākuā Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

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Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) *

Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright

Your Organization (optional)

Veterans For Peace; Hawaii Peace & Justice

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

annw1946@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

September 3, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: US Army Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright, Veterans for Peace, Community Member

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

As a retired US Army Colonel with 29 years in the US military and 16 years as a US diplomat, I support the demand communicated to University of Hawai'i leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP) at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract.

UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea.

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US Army Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright

Annw1946@gmail.com

808-741-1141

Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawaii

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

Letter to UH to cancel UARC.docx (18.2 kB)

September 3, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: US Army Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright, Veterans for Peace, Community Member

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- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007. [<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

US Army Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright

Annw1946@gmail.com

808-741-1141

Veterans For Peace Chapter 113-Hawaii

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

David Lonborg

Your Organization (optional)

Institute for Astronomy

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

dlonborg@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

While the vast majority of federal support for Institute for Astronomy (IfA) research comes from NSF or NASA, ARL at UH has supported a number of projects at the IfA, the largest of which is US Naval Observatory support for operation of the United Kingdom Infrared Telescope (UKIRT), which UH now owns and operates. In exchange for USNO's funding of a substantial portion of UKIRT's operating costs, IfA has conducted a series of astronomical surveys at infrared wavelengths for which UKIRT is optimized. This research builds on survey work conducted by the British science agency by which UKIRT was originally constructed and operated, and furthers USNO's mission of maintaining the Celestial Reference Frame used for high precision positional astronomy, navigation (including civilian GPS), etc. USNO, working with a group of researchers at the University of Arizona, has also used UKIRT to study space debris, which is a large and increasing problem for space agencies worldwide. USNO is one of the federal government's oldest science agencies, and has

agreed since the inception of its work with UKIRT to conduct only scientific research that may be published, presented in public talks, etc.

ARL's role in this work has been to provide an efficient contracting mechanism. Under the ARL contract, the government may issue a simple task order to support research that UH wishes to perform and the government wishes to fund. Without this simplified process, the work could still be performed, but may require a much more extensive procurement process that could be time and/or cost prohibitive for UH, the government, or both.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Sean Blanks

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

sblanks@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Board of Regents,

I am an avid supporter of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) and strongly believe in the positive impact it provides for the people of Hawai'i and the world at large.

On a personal level, thanks to the support of ARL, I am able to pursue my master's in mechanical engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where I further research advancements in solar-thermal desalination technologies. This research, made possible by ARL, has enabled me to contribute to the global effort to develop sustainable solutions to water scarcity. A particularly pressing concern in Hawai'i, where water scarcity played an adverse role in exacerbating the wild fire in Lahaina.

Beyond my personal experiences with ARL, as a resident of Hawai'i, I believe that ARL should be supported as a research body. Hawai'i often lacks the skilled STEM career opportunities of the mainland, coupled with high cost of living, many STEM graduates leave Hawai'i before having the chance to give back to the community. ARL generates opportunities for these skilled STEM individuals to stay and contribute to our state's well being through the research and application of technological innovations.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Isar Mostafanezhad

Your Organization (optional)

Nalu Scientific, LLC

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

isar@naluscientific.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see the attached support letter.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL Testimony.pdf (136.4 kB)



Dear Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,

I would like to express my strong support for the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) on behalf of Nalu Scientific, LLC.

I received my Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from UH Manoa Department of Electrical Engineering in 2010. Since then I have worked at several startup and small businesses in Honolulu, HI some of which were UH spin-offs.

In 2016 I started Nalu Scientific to design, develop and commercialize high speed low power microchips that are used in advanced scientific research. In this process we raised over \$12M in non-dilutive funding in the form of grants and contracts from the US government, national labs and other customers. We are currently selling products and services through a distributor to customers around the globe. We have relied heavily on talent and expertise of faculty and graduates from UHM Physics and EE departments. Most of our employees are from Hawaii or have graduated from UHM. They design our products here in Hawaii and they travel around the country to provide support and services to our customers - Essentially exporting Hawaii tech to the nation and globally.

We have been able to achieve our technical and business goals by benefiting from the support of an R1 university in our state with a dedicated mission to perform high end research and development in Hawaii.

We are currently collaborating with ARL on an electronics R&D-based project at the Manoa Innovation Center (MIC), where ARL is a neighbor down the hallway. The project involves several of our staff including junior engineers who are gaining valuable experience working on circuitry for a battery power system. It has been a pleasure to be working with ARL staff over the past year and getting to know their sponsor and their needs. We are thankful for ARL's business and we emphasize the importance that we place on ARL as a key institution within the local tech industry. Moving forward we look forward to working with ARL to use some of our microchips in their advanced sensors for ocean related research and development.

In addition to providing University of Hawai'i staff the opportunity to pursue unique research and engineering projects that develop our local engineering and STEM talent pool, ARL's work also supports local businesses like Nalu Scientific. We are proud to maintain an excellent working relationship with ARL staff and very much look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,
Isar Mostafanezhad, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Nalu Scientific, LLC

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Jordan Garrison

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory (University of Hawaii undergraduate student)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jgarrison39@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and members of the committee,

Aloha Kākou, my name is Jordan Garrison, I am providing this testimony as a University of Hawaii undergraduate student veteran, proud resident and community member of Hawai'i. In my professional capacity, I serve as a student researcher at the Applied Research Laboratory.

Since its establishment in 2008, the ARL has executed research within our six core competencies: ocean research, astronomy, sensor development, remote sensing, renewable energy and public service. Many of these Department of Defense funded projects have contributed to multi-lateral research for other areas of the interest of University of Hawai'i, such as fostering the development of a local high-tech workforce,

community involvement during the COVID19 pandemic, to contributing to solving some of Hawaii's biggest environmental threats such as coral bleaching and coastline erosion. The ARL most importantly provides a platform for students and researchers to address Hawaiian issues with technology, engineering and science. The list of the ARLs past contributions to our community is too long for a several minute long testimony, so I will focus on telling my personal story of how the ARL became a platform for my specific expertise to help contribute to solving one of Hawaii's biggest environmental crisis's: military sea-disposed munitions.

I am a U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal veteran, I served for 8 years in the US Navy's Bomb Squad – during my service I learned about nearly every explosive in arsenal of weapons and bombs possessed by the United States and other nations. After my service in the Navy, I enrolled at the University of Hawaii as an engineering student. As a lifelong waterman and surfer, I became aware of the problems caused by World War II era sea-disposed munitions when paddling out in the surfing lineups and hearing about the military munitions that had been found in Hawaii's reefs by surfers, divers and fisherman. This is a problem I was in a very unique position to help solve due to my military EOD experience and my desire to help my community as a new resident of Hawaii. The ARL provided a platform for me to contribute to researching solutions to this problem.

When I had asked my professors about what has been done to help locate and remove these munitions from Hawaiian waters, I was pointed to Dr. Margo Edwards, the Director of the ARL. Dr. Edwards has spent much of her career researching methods to locate and document these munition dump sites; as well as the long-term effects of sea-disposed munitions on the environment and our community. When I met with Dr. Edwards, she enthusiastically welcomed me to the ARL to help contribute to this problem and the community of Hawaii. Through Dr. Edwards research, we have estimated there are over 100 tons of sea disposed munitions in Hawaiian waters, many of these munitions contained deadly chemical warfare agents, whose environmental and human effects are still in question and require additional research. There are no other organizations working on solutions to this problem. The continuation of ARL research is paramount for students like myself to make meaningful contributions in solving Hawaii's environmental problems with technology and science. We have made leaps and bounds of progress, but there is still much work remaining.

Please consider the need for Hawaii's continued development of a high-tech work force, our communities need for technology and science-based problem solving, and the ARL's unique position to help contribute to future issues when considering discussions of the ARL contract with the University of Hawaii. I wish nothing but the best for the future of our community and I strongly support the ARL's mission and commitment to Hawaii's future.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your time and consideration in this matter,

Jordan Garrison

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

ARL_Testimony_Garrison,Jordan.docx (25.9 kB)

To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and members of the committee,

Aloha Kākou, my name is Jordan Garrison, I am providing this testimony as a University of Hawaii undergraduate student veteran, proud resident and community member of Hawai'i. In my professional capacity, I serve as a student researcher at the Applied Research Laboratory.

Since its establishment in 2008, the ARL has executed research within our six core competencies: ocean research, astronomy, sensor development, remote sensing, renewable energy and public service. Many of these Department of Defense funded projects have contributed to multi-lateral research for other areas of the interest of University of Hawai'i, such as fostering the development of a local high-tech workforce, community involvement during the COVID19 pandemic, to contributing to solving some of Hawaii's biggest environmental threats such as coral bleaching and coastline erosion. The ARL most importantly provides a platform for students and researchers to address Hawaiian issues with technology, engineering and science. The list of the ARLs past contributions to our community is too long for a several minute long testimony, so I will focus on telling my personal story of how the ARL became a platform for my specific expertise to help contribute to solving one of Hawaii's biggest environmental crisis's: military sea-disposed munitions.

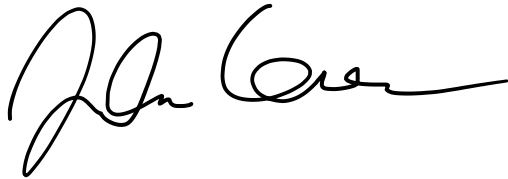
I am a U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal veteran, I served for 8 years in the US Navy's Bomb Squad – during my service I learned about nearly every explosive in arsenal of weapons and bombs possessed by the United States and other nations. After my service in the Navy, I enrolled at the University of Hawaii as an engineering student. As a lifelong waterman and surfer, I became aware of the problems caused by World War II era sea-disposed munitions when paddling out in the surfing lineups and hearing about the military munitions that had been found in Hawaii's reefs by surfers, divers and fisherman. This is a problem I was in a very unique position to help solve due to my military EOD experience and my desire to help my community as a new resident of Hawaii. The ARL provided a platform for me to contribute to researching solutions to this problem.

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Mahalo Nui Loa for your time and consideration in this matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Garrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jordan Garrison

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Your Name (required) *

Patrick Cross

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

pscross@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

ARL is crucial to the receipt and execution of key DOD (Navy) awards related to the Wave Energy Test Site (WETS) and to our UH research and developments in marine energy. The UARC is a helpful and convenient organization/mechanism for the distribution of important congressionally identified funding aimed at advancements at WETS and promoting marine energy research more broadly. The funds received through ARL to date have directly supported numerous students (8 over the past few years), and have brought in the research talents of professors in Ocean and Resources Engineering (in SOEST) and in the College of Engineering. Funding has allowed the hiring of 2 new staff and 2 new researcher faculty in recent years. The staff at ARL plays a critical role in helping me - as Principal Investigator - to administer, and guide, the program, as well as interfacing with the sponsor. We are currently executing NAVSEA WETS awards number

5, 6, and 7 through the ARL. In all, over \$30M have come to the University and the community through this mechanism. Very very strongly in support of the ARL!!

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Jacob Hitchcock

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jacobeh@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 3, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Jacob Hitchcock, Student

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that

weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007. [\[https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf\]](https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf)

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.
2. Boycott! Adhere to the [PACBI guidelines](#) for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .
4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.
5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.

6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Ted Ralston

Your Organization (optional)

Echelon Services LLC

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ted.ralston@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

ARL has been a most successful component of UH, serving the State, the University, and its DOD sponsor, while providing superior post-graduate careers and doctoral educational opportunities. ARL provides an important option for scholastic and undergrad interns as they begin to consider their futures . Opportunities provided by ARL keep many graduates in Hawaii rather than expatriating to the mainland. ARL gives all participants the opportunity to perform continually in the real-world problem-solving space, not encountered in traditional education, which experience greatly improves career-readiness.

There is ever-increasing need for the work done by ARL. The real world is changing drastically as the effects of climate are influencing Pacific geopolitics with international agreements at risk in food and sovereignty, placing sustainment stress on populations, powering devastating disasters that are all too familiar and

close-by. There is no unit at UH better able than multi-disciplinary ARL properly staffed-u.to handle the expanding Pacific threat picture, whether viewed as a military problem, a civil problem, or a cultural problem - In fact the problems converge, especially when viewed from an Island perspective.

ARL is currently Navy-sponsored...what if it were Multi-sponsored, by the Pacific Command, by Homeland Security, by DoI, DoH, DoC, and State level ? What if it were charged to think about the Big Picture affecting all of us, interpreted in an Island context: the need for Durable Persistent Communication; Predictive Awareness on threats; Informed Resilience; Crisis Health; and Unified Command - the whole developed in an Island context.

ARL has been successful and can be moreso. ARL can serve the State as well as the Federal Govt. ARL can serve the Community. Obviously these are big, progressive changes, with a lot of CODEL help needed, multi-talented staff added, and a lot of time to develop. Let's launch from success and continually build increased capacity for Hawaii thru ARL.

Respectfully submitted to UH BOR. Thank you for the opportunity.

Ted Ralston
808.738.6814

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Joseph J. Brown

Your Organization (optional)

UH Mānoa, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jjbrown@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing this letter as a faculty member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to express support for the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory (UH ARL). Institutional time and resource constraints prevent me from providing an extensive letter on this matter, but that perhaps illustrates the importance of the UH ARL as a source of resources that strengthen UH. Since joining the faculty in 2017, ARL has provided mentoring and financial support for many undergraduate and graduate students that have worked with me, and has helped provide stabilizing funding to enable the graduate education of multiple graduate students. Furthermore, ARL helped bring in funding to my research group that contributed to purchasing of permanent equipment, and helped me to build my group management and mentoring structure

so that I can sustain mentoring, training, and education of a large team (usually about 10 to 15 students total) of undergraduate and graduate students working in the labs that I supervise.

Research and training in engineering disciplines is an expensive endeavor, particularly when trying to create, demonstrate, and use new technologies. Typically across the United States engineering programs rely on funding provided by the US Department of Defense (DoD) to support impactful projects that train and educate the engineering workforce in the United States. While development of the internet is the best-known example, many DoD-supported projects spread out into broader societal impact after initial research funding. Projects pursued by ARL may form the seeds of similar widespread impacts, with relevance to Hawaii in the fields of cybersecurity, renewable energy, climate adaptation technologies, and additive manufacturing. Furthermore, much of the Defense Department budget is allocated to support research projects leading to workforce training. The ARL provides a pathway to bring a sizeable amount of this funding to Hawaii, rather than leave it to other states.

I would be happy to elaborate further with any details that may be of interest to members of the board. Thank you for your attention and care in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Brown, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Paul Baessler

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

paulbaessler@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Baessler_BOR_ARL_Testimony.pdf (33.4 kB)

University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

My name is Paul Baessler. I am a mechanical engineer for the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), and I am writing to testify that the ARL has not and will never conduct weapons research.

I grew up on Oahu graduating from Kalani High School in 2016 and later earned my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2020. I had the privilege of interning at the ARL for one summer before eventually taking on a full-time engineering position. Since then, I've been nothing but proud to work with such an honest and dedicated team of professionals who wish to serve the state of Hawai'i and advance research that supports the maritime environment.

As part of the ARL, I've worked on several wonderful, impactful projects. Some of these include:

- The development of low-cost sensor platforms for maritime domain environmental sensing
- Rapid prototyping via additive and traditional manufacturing for Naval systems and vehicles
- Remote heart rate monitoring system for active first responders

In addition, the ARL has been part of projects such as wave energy harvesting, engineered reefs for attenuating coastal wave energy, cybersecurity, high-performance computing, and astronomical observations; all of which contribute to the safety, well-being, and longevity of our oceans & environment.

Under the Navy sole-source IDIQ (indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity) contract, the research behind these projects and all others conducted by the ARL can only be related to one of our six core competencies: ocean research, astronomy, sensor development, remote sensing, renewable energy and public service. Weapons research is completely out of the question.

I hope we can reach a mutual understanding of the ARL's effort in maritime research with respect to their partnership with the University of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Baessler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Baessler

Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

1 message

Keala Fung <kealadancer@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 9:02 AM

9/3/24

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Keala Fung, student

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.**

Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Keala Fung
Honolulu HI

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Kristen Young

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

kristensyoung@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Testimony to UH Board of Regents.pdf (120.3 kB)

September 4, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Kristen Young, graduate of UH Mānoa 2016 (Family Resources & Spanish)

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH) and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kaho'olawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pōhakuloa, Red Hill, Pu'uloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kaua'i. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

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I stand with SFJP@UH in their position against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by U.S. imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of our islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by U.S.-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: [tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15](https://www.tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15)
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Your Name (required) *

Areerat Worawongwasu

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

aree@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Areerat Worawongwasu, PhD Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

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the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

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Points specific to the currently available ARL Presentation:

What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?

Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position

The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

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Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15

The Dirty Secret about UARC, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007. [<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.

2. Boycott! Adhere to the PACBI guidelines for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including

Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.

3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .

4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.

5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.

6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached



Testimony in Support of the ARL at UH

Baseem Missaghi <baseem@gmail.com>
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 4:30 AM

Aloha,

Sorry for sending it early, thank you for the information. I am re-submitting it now that the agenda has been posted.

I am writing to submit my testimony relating to the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i. Please find my attached letter of testimony for your review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the important work being done by the ARL at UH.

Mahalo,
Baseem Missaghi
[Quoted text hidden]

 **Testimony_BMissaghi_Sept5th2024_ARLatUH .pdf**
113K

Testimony Presented to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
Committee on Institutional Success

September 5th, 2024
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Baseem Missaghi

RELATING TO THE APPLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chairs: Gabriel Lee, **Vice Chairs:** Laurel Loo & Laurie Tochiki, , and members of the committee:

I provide this testimony as a private citizen in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). In my professional capacity I serve as an Application Engineer II at ARL at UH.

ARL at UH Mission Statement: The Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i imagines and develops agile, innovative, and cost-effective solutions to problems impacting our stakeholders, our community, and our planet.

ARL at UH Vision: The Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i conducts vital national research today to meet tomorrow's critical security challenges.

Workforce Development: As a member of the ARL at UH Ohana since May 2018, I have found myself among a community of dedicated individuals striving to support the youth of Hawai'i by providing increasing opportunities each year for their professional and personal growth. We have been inspired by the creativity and innovation of 16 high school students and over 60 college students as they tackle real-world problems facing Hawai'i. Each year, we realize how much the youth of Hawai'i are capable of contributing to the community's continued success. They have worked on projects aiding Hawai'i's first responders, supporting student research, and protecting our coasts. Their enthusiasm and passion for the betterment of humanity are shared by each of us, motivating us to find new ways to expand opportunities every year.

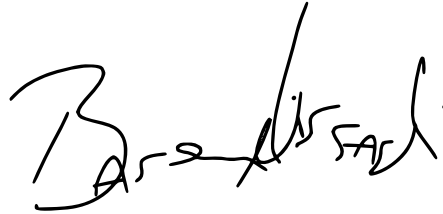
Community Service: I strongly believe that one of our primary responsibilities in our work is to find ways to serve the community. During my time at ARL at UH, We have received support in the form of time, financial resources, planning, consultation, and mentoring, all for projects that positively impact the Hawai'i community. Over the past seven years, ARL at UH has worked on multiple projects, including a web app for the State of Hawai'i's Emergency Management Agency and Department of Health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Quad-Split Ventilator System, face mask app & education, health check-in apps for Hawai'i schools, communication methods for Hawai'i nursing homes to keep families connected with loved ones, sensors to detect smoke, sensors to aid in tracking first

responders for quick recovery, drone automation to aid in the search for lost hikers, and consultation services to support local small business startups in Hawai'i.

Economic Benefits: ARL at UH has grown each year, and with that growth, we are able to help more students find jobs, develop skills for success in their careers, and continue to explore new solutions to positively impact the community. While our team is still small and in its early stages, I believe that as we continue to grow, we will find more ways to have an even bigger and more positive impact on the Hawai'i community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the ARL at UH.

Baseem Missaghi
baseem@hawaii.edu

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baseem Missaghi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Christoph Baranec

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

baranec@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am leading two very similar projects at the Institute for Astronomy to build two adaptive optics systems which counteract the blurring effects of the atmosphere on ground-based telescopes (<https://arl.hawaii.edu/core-competencies/astronomy/adaptive-optics/>). The first of these, for the University of Hawaii 2.2-m telescope, is used for a wide range of scientific studies, and the second, for the US Naval Observatory's 1.8-m telescope in Arizona is in support of the accuracy of our nation's Celestial Navigation Frame (<https://crf.usno.navy.mil/>). The latter adaptive optics system is funded by the US Naval Observatory, \$2.2 million to UH to date, through an efficient contracting mechanism administered by our Applied Research Laboratory. Having the streamlined process in place to accept DoD contracts enhances our ability to support

education via research as we have done in this case by supporting 1 graduate student, 2 undergraduates and 2 local high school students working on this project.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Noa Sicking-Kendrick

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

noasickingkendrick@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Written-testimony-for-the-UH-Committee-on-Institutional-Success.doc (6.8 kB)

September 4, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Noa Sicking-kendrick (student)

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

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Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

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Your Name (required) *

Nanea Lo

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

nanea clo@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 4, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Nanea Lo, Community Member and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Alumni

Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

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Sources:

- [Island Voices: UH Must Cut Ties with U.S. Navy, Israel](#)
- [Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24](#)
- [The Dirty Secret about UARC](#), authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Stanley Dodds

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

dodds@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As a citizen of both the United States of America and the State of Hawaii I want to voice my support for the ARL, a University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) that engages in critical research that is important for the security and well-being of every citizen of Hawaii. I was the principal investigator of two US Navy funded projects at the Institute for Astronomy that were possible only because of the ARL UARC program at UH which greatly simplifies the process of contracting with the DoD to perform research related activities. The ARL attracts much needed Federal funding to Hawaii. The ARL creates well paid, professional and technical jobs, STEM career opportunities and high-tech business opportunites in Hawaii. The ARL has made, and is

making, significant technological contributions for Hawaii and for America. Please continue supporting the ARL UARC at UH.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Nandini Chandra

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

nc8@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 4, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Nandini Chandra, Associate Professor, Department of English.

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.**

Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

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- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007. [<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.
2. Boycott! Adhere to the [PACBI guidelines](#) for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .
4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.

5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.

6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Tiare Martin

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

tiare_martin@outlook.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Tiare Martin, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Vanguard Center for High Performance Computing on Maui, an ARL UH project. As a Native Hawaiian deeply committed to the well-being of our island home, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the ARL UH.

ARL UH is not just a research institution; it is a vital resource for our community that plays a crucial role in safeguarding Hawaii, the Pacific, and our nation. My team of research scientists, engineers, and project administrators has developed critical solutions for cybersecurity, digital transformation, and high-performance computing—work that has been recognized by national leaders for contributions to our

country's security and the resilience of the Pacific. In today's digital world, these areas of expertise are not only vital to protecting our community but to ensuring its sustainability.

For over 20 years, the University of Hawaii's support of the Maui High Performance Computing Center has been a cornerstone for the Maui Research and Tech Park. In the last five years alone, we've generated \$50 million in revenue and doubled our team size, even as Maui has confronted unprecedented challenges. This success is a testament to my team's hard work, determination, and a shared belief that growing Maui's tech industry is an investment in a brighter future for the next generation. I am deeply grateful for UH's investment in the Maui Research and Tech Park. It is because of the Tech Park that I was able to return home after beginning my career on the mainland. Today, 50% of our team is from Maui, 70% is from across Hawaii, and half are proud University of Hawaii graduates.

Additionally, my colleagues at the ARL UH have developed technologies in wave energy, coastal reef regeneration, early warning systems, sea-disposed ordnance detection, and robotic mapping of the ocean floor. These innovations are crucial to sustaining our island home and assisting other island nations facing similar challenges.

At a time when global warming and political instability dominate the headlines, the work of ARL UH is essential to safeguarding and sustaining Hawaii for future generations. Opposing ARL UH reflects a misunderstanding of the essential role it plays in addressing Hawaii's unique challenges and vulnerabilities. As a Hawaiian and a University of Hawaii team member, I sincerely thank you for your support of the ARL UH and urge you to continue to support this invaluable institution, which reflects UH's strength in research and reinforces our collective commitment to the safety and prosperity of our islands, the Pacific, and our nation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Tiare K Martin
Executive Director
Vanguard Center for High Performance Computing
Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached



Testimony in Opposition for Agenda Item F.

1 message

Bronson Azama <bazama@hawaii.edu>
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 10:46 PM

Aloha,

Please see my written testimony in opposition of ARL below

Mahalo,
Bronson

 **Azama_BOR Testimony 09.04.2024.pdf**
78K

Thursday, September 4, 2024

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item F. Presentation on ARL at UH**

Greetings Regents,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter which students have expressed concerns since February. My name is Bronson Azama, I am a current student at this University and the former ASUH President.

I remind the Regents that ASUH maintains a position to terminate the University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) via Senate Resolution 06-24. This testimony reaffirms ASUH's position to oppose the UARC.

ASUH and members from the Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP) have advocated on this issue for months now. The public, students, faculty, and staff, have still no answers on the current status of the UARC contract renegotiation, its contents, and this presentation lacks answers to the transparency concerns.

I hope the Board can provide ask the following questions:

1. The current status of the UARC contract renegotiation?
2. How ARL competencies are used in military operations?
3. What guarantees do we have that research and technologies developed are not leading to the loss of life of people, animals, and plants?
4. How does ARL integrate Hawaiian culture and fulfill kuleana to Kānaka Maoli?
5. What percentage of research conducted is classified at ARL?
6. How does ARL engage in Community-Driven research?
7. Has there been an independent audit on ARL spending?
8. How is overhead from ARL utilized?
9. What percentage of overhead goes directly to students?

When I testified on behalf of ASUH in February, we were told to do our “homework” into a research laboratory and contract that is shrouded in proprietary information, an outdated website, and a lack of publicly available information. I remind this Board that Red Hill was once a classified military facility that was proprietary knowledge, yet it has resulted in the greatest environmental catastrophe on this island, a catastrophe that threatens the habitability for ours and future generations.

ARL claims to be doing great work with Red Hill, yet I have heard nothing about the botched tests, we do not see ARL or the University rising to the communities defense or informing the community publicly at the Community Representation Initiative, which has had to get third party assessments that determine proper procedures are not being followed by the Navy.

I remind the BOR that the Motto of this Public University is “Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” *Above all nations is humanity*. That speaks of an allegiance to our humanity, and this contract is antithetical to that motto, when we are without transparency improving a warforce that has poisoned our waters, has committed some of the worst genocides in history, an ongoing cultural genocide here in Hawai‘i and and the genocide we are watching Gaza.

Since February, I have remained the Regents about the history of internal criticism of the militarization of the United States and its threat to a future we now live. From President Eisenhower’s warning about the military industrial complex, Dr. King’s reminder of the need for moral power over scientific power to avoid a future nation that has “guided missiles and misguided men”, and the words of President John F. Kennedy months before his assassination that talked of a future “Peace not just for this time, but peace for all time” when referencing an opportunity to build a bridge and not further a divide with the Soviet Union.

This crossroads that we face is no different, one that poses a question of morals to all of you, into the future you leave for people like me. I do not know how much I as a young person can beg you all to understand that we need to question the direction of this public University following the money, with little to no questioning of the impacts and consequences the outcomes of this UARC status is having on peoples across the world. How sensor technologies can lead to the death of people, children, and even harm our relatives that are the whales.

Again I request the Regents to diligently look into UARC and above all else terminate the UARC contract.

If we have the skillset as others have claimed we do not need these contract vehicles.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama



SEPT 5 BOR Meeting Testimony

1 message

Kekuawela Tauala <kbtauala@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 10:48 PM

Aloha,

My name is Kekuawela Tauala. I am an ASUH Senator and would like to submit written testimony for the BOR Meeting tomorrow on the UARC. Attached to this email is my written testimony.

Mahalo,
Kekuawela Tauala

 **KTauala ASUH BOR Testimony 9.04.24.pdf**
311K



Thursday, September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents' Committee on Institutional Success

FROM: ASUH Senator of the School of Social Work

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item F. Presentation on ARL at UH**

My name is Kekuawela Tauala. I write in my capacity as a Senator of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i.

ASUH has taken a position that the Board should terminate the University of Hawai'i's status as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) via Senate Resolution 06-24. This testimony reaffirms ASUH's position to oppose the UARC.

Since this issue was shared to the Regents in February, and it was learned that UH is currently renegotiating the UARC contract, there has been no update on the status of contract renegotiations, nor was any update included in this presentation.

We hope the Board can provide clarification on the current status of the UARC contract.

ASUH last semester submitted a list of questions, many of which we have not received an answer to. We hope the Board may obtain the answers of these questions and our additional questions at this meeting.

Additional questions:

1. What is the percentage of research conducted is classified at ARL?
2. Is sensory research at UH used for military operations? Do those operations result in the death of people?
3. How does ARL work with the community? Does ARL engage in community-driven research?
4. What community partners do they have?
5. How has ARL improved community access and awareness to the research conducted?

The questions asked were as follows:

1. What areas of research are classified beyond Cybersecurity?
2. Is the UARC contract involved with weapons research?
3. Can research be utilized for Military operations?
4. How is the Overhead utilized?

5. How many students and alumni are employed through the ARL
 - a. Do these individuals hold administrative roles?
6. Will the UARC contract be seeking public input?
7. Is there any cultural advisory on the UARC contract since we are moving toward a Hawaiian Place of Learning?
8. How does the UARC address community issues related to the military, and community research needs?

Since ASUH began advocating on this issue, we have yet to see transparency. Questions even asked by the State Senate related to President Lassner's ability to serve as the P.I. while he has underserved students, with Title IX concerns, a growing privatization of University lands leading to concerning dorm conditions, and seemingly transferring student liability to private entities, yet despite the needs of students, he can serve on multimillion dollar defense contracts and task-ordered research. This is sickening, that this is done with the oversight of this Board.

We hope this semester we can forge a relationship that values transparency, accountability, and a moral compass on the research conducted at this University. We again request the University Board of Regents terminate the UARC contract, and also hope that Regents seek much needed answers.

Mahalo,
Kekuawela Tauala



testimony comments for 9/5/24 BOR meeting

1 message

Colleen Rost-Banik <mcrb@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 11:16 PM

Dear Board of Regents,

Please accept my attached comments in relation to the Committee on Institutional Success, Agenda Item F (Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i) for the September 5, 2024 Board of Regents meeting.

Respectfully,
Colleen Rost-Banik

Colleen Rost-Banik, Ph.D.
Instructor, Department of Sociology
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa



BOR UARC testimony - 9-4-24.pdf
89K

September 4, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Colleen Rost-Banik, Instructor, Sociology Department, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.

Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. While UH likes to boast about being a Native Hawaiian place of learning, such a claim is questionable given UH's secrecy of UARC related documents. Shielding UARC documents from public scrutiny raises serious concerns about the possibility of UH's involvement in weapons research. The public deserves to know, for instance, if sensory technologies developed at the University are used to improve the lethality of military operations. Hawai'i's peoples, lands, and seas have already experienced enough destruction and lethality of military operations, as is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kaua'i.

I ask that the Board of Regents join with faculty, students, and staff to hold all of UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration. Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion-dollar contract between the military and the public university system, which ultimately commits taxpayer support?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position.
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>

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Your Name (required) *

Ryan Churchill

Your Organization (optional)

Lipoa Investments, LLC

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ryanc@pacificrimland.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Board of Regents:

Our firm, Lipoa Investments, is writing today to express our strong support for renewing the ARL at UH contract. Our owners were one of the original founders in the Maui Research and Technology Park, and our firm is now the sole owner of the undeveloped lands in the Maui R&T Park. We have spent the last decade, designing, and implementing a new master plan for the Maui R&T Park which has been renamed, Lipoa "Maui's Innovation Community". This next phase will bring workforce housing and amenities to this community which now is home to a vibrant cluster of innovation businesses in the fields of space domain awareness, astronomy, sensor development, disaster mitigation, artificial intelligence, supercomputing, and software development.

From its inception in 1993, the Maui High Performance Computer Center (MHPCC) has anchored the Maui R&T Park providing top level technology jobs to the Maui community, something that has always been core to the mission of the Park. The MHPCC operates as one of the five Department of Defense (DOD) Supercomputing Resource Centers within the DOD's High Performance Computing Modernization Program (HPCMP). The MHPCC has been integral to our ability to continue to attract technology businesses and jobs to Lipoa. Having this local supercomputing capability available is one of the many reasons that the United States Space Force has committed to building a permanent facility in Lipoa, recently purchasing 10 acres of land and making a \$75 million commitment to design and build their campus. With a permanent Space Force facility in Lipoa, Maui will be able to attract other private companies that can also support working in the space domain awareness field to keep our country's satellites safe. MHPCC is integral to this innovation ecosystem in Lipoa. Through the many projects that MHPCC is supporting, 50 technology jobs have been created with 70% of them currently filled with graduates from Hawaii high schools and 50% of them having graduated from UH or UHMC. The Maui R&T Park's original founders and advocates would be gratified to see their vision being realized for our local community.

The contract that ARL provides to the MHPCC is not only critical to their success and future growth but that of our entire innovation community here at Lipoa. We urge your continued support of the ARL at UH.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Ryan Churchill
President

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Isis Usborne

Your Organization (optional)

Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

isis.usborne@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha e Regents,

Please divest from the genocidal US empire and its project of colonial domination. It is extremely disappointing to see this public institution of higher learning cooperating with, benefitting from, and contributing to the technologies that may very well be used to increase the "lethality" of the US military. As a place that claims to be an indigenous place of learning, and as the people of Palestine continue to be bombed at a terrifying rate, it is imperative that we take a long look at ourselves and how we are complicit in the atrocities being committed by global forces of violent domination.

Mahalo,

- Isis Usborne, Student at William S. Richardson School of Law

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Dianne Deauna

Your Organization (optional)

Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine @ UH Mānoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

jdeauna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

BoR testimony.pdf (100.4 kB)

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dianne Deauna, graduate student, member, Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at UH Mānoa

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

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Your Name (required) *

Sonja Giardina

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

sonjagia@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Sonja Giardina BOR written testimony.pdf (100.7 kB)

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Sonja Giardina, UH Mānoa Student

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kaho'olawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pōhakuloa, Red Hill, Pu'uloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

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Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
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Your Name (required) *

INGA GIBSON

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

Ingagibson@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

As an alumna of UH Manoa, I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public review or scrutiny.

The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent

Orange in Kauai. The public has a right to transparency and to prevent and/or hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory.

We urge the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration, and that the Board and the Public will have sufficient time to review.

Mahalo,
Inga Gibson

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Noelle Iati

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

noellemi@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
FROM: Noelle Marie Iati, PhD Student in American Studies

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for

the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.** Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

SFJP@UH stands against the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by US imperialism, aided entirely by militarization of the islands. In a similar vein, the occupation of Palestine by the IOF is fortified by US-made weaponry and technology. We denounce any research ties the University of Hawai'i has that assists innovation in the name of improving military operations and increasing lethality. A strategic partnership as represented by UARC advances the DoD's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety".

Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: [tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15](https://www.tinyurl.com/UHBoRMAY15)
- *The Dirty Secret about UARC*, authored by Prof. Kyle Kajihiro in 2007.
[<https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf>]

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Daron Nishimoto

Your Organization (optional)

EO Solutions LLC

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

daron.nishimoto@e-osolutions.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Board of Regents,

I would like to express my support for the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii specifically for the management and technical leadership at the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC). I have worked at the high tech park for over 35 years and have seen the significant positive impacts it has made in high paying jobs and technical achievements. My company employs over 80 local hires in MRTC. MHPCC is a critical high performance computing asset for Hawaii and the Department of Defense. The RCUH team is responsible for the operations, maintenance, and modernization of the MHPCC that provides a significant amount of high paying technical jobs for the State of Hawaii in cybersecurity, software research and development in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. RCUH is active leading

participant in multiple community engagements, such as work force pipeline with the University of Hawaii and UH Maui College, the Pacific Intelligence Internship Initiative (P3I) program, and the Akamai Internship program. The most significant achievement to date is the HPC Portal Platform that has significantly increased the amount of users at ALL DSRC computing resources by lowering the barrier to entry. There would be a tremendous loss of technical jobs and a significant impact to operations of a critical national asset in computing systems.

Daron Nishimoto
EO Solutions Corp, Co-Founder and CGO
daron.nishimoto@e-osolutions.com
(808) 268-2733

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) *

Teena Rasmussen

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

teena@pffmaui.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As a former UH Regent and the former Director of the County of Maui Office of Economic Development, I am writing to express my support for the renewal of the ARL contract at UH.

Specifically on Maui, the external funding from the ARL that is supporting the work of the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) located in what was formerly known as the Maui Research and Technology Park has been critical to the mission and vision of the Park. Over the decades, the work at MHPCC has been the catalyst to attract companies and create valuable, living-wage jobs for our community. This is particularly gratifying as Maui has spent several decades developing a robust offering of STEM education programs in our schools. We are now seeing the fruits of this arduous work; our local kids are being offered jobs in these technology companies. The MHPCC itself employs 50 people on Maui, many

who have graduated from Hawaii high schools and colleges. The diverse projects at MHPCC provide remarkable opportunities and experience for these employees. There are at least 12 other tech companies located in the Park that are also offering high value jobs.

Anyone working in economic development understands how difficult it is to diversify our economy in Hawaii. The ARL funding is critical to the continued success of our efforts on Maui. We urge your support for continuing the ARL at UH contract.

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached



BOR Testimony, September 5th, 2024 - Please confirm receipt. Mahalo!

1 message

Michael Sukhov <hawaiiiscalling@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:56 AM

Attached.



UH BOR Ltr re UARC_September 5 2024.docx
38K

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Michael J. Sukhov, Ph.D., Research Associate, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu

RE: Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa, calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the Department of Defense that institutionalizes and advances U.S. military intervention abroad, destroying life on land and sea in the process. Because there is no documented proof available to U.S. citizens that weapons and weapons-related research has not and *is not* being conducted at the University, as none of the UARC-related documents relevant to its research are open for public scrutiny, it is unknown to the public whether and to what extent this research is being used to facilitate U.S. military interventions or other actions abroad, or whether sensory or other technologies that have been or are being developed at the University and have potential military applications have been or are being used to improve the lethality of U.S. military operations in the past, present, or future, the University should cease funding such research *immediately*.

The military relationship with Hawai'i and its deleterious consequences over time have been evident in practice bombing (e.g., on Kahoolawe and in the Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), the profusion of undetonated munitions, and UH's testing of Agent Orange on Kauai. The University of Hawai'i and its affiliated institutions must be held accountable for the harmful and life-threatening consequences of entering strategic partnerships with entities such as the U.S. Department of Defense and its contractors that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

While student opposition to the activities of the UH's ARC has been articulated as a critical concern on this campus since February 2024, the University leadership has yet to provide any clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. As a member of the University community, I urge the Board of Regents to provide information to us concerning the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and an explanation of the full process, including how public input will be solicited and taken into consideration. The Board must provide the University community as well as the broader public with sufficient time to review what likely would be another multimillion-dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent for ethically-questionable purposes at a publicly-funded university.

I stand with SFJP@UH in opposition to the use of any of our University facilities, personnel, equipment, and expertise to participate in, study, support, or fund research or related activities

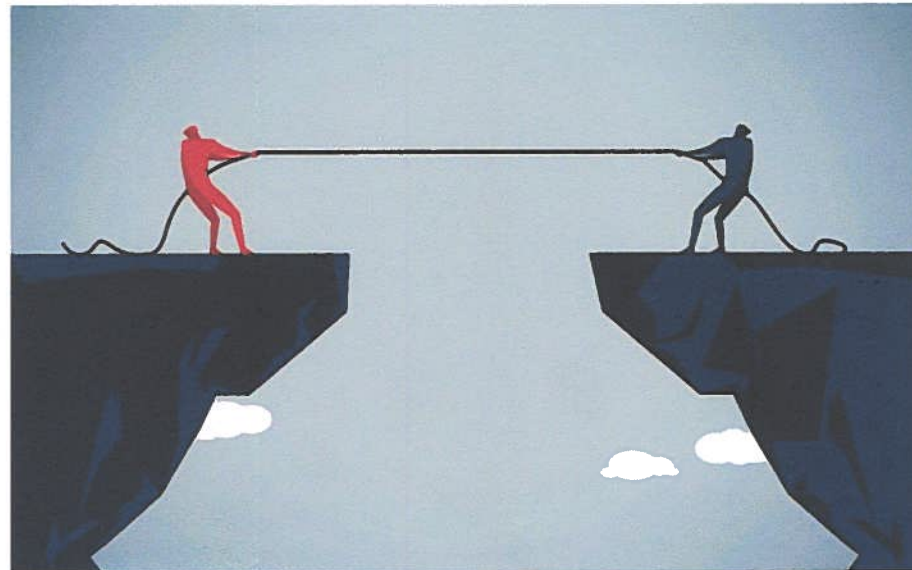
that have the intent, purpose or effect of perpetrating destruction, violence or the threat thereof to human beings, animals, or the natural environment, whether here in Hawai'i or abroad. Such participation and support are anathema to the purposes of a university, whose mission is the furtherance of knowledge in an environment that is free from the deleterious influence of or coercion by government or corporate entities whose interests do not align with this mission.

I therefore join SFJP@UH in denouncing any military or defense-related research ties the University of Hawai'i currently has, or may have in the future, which assist so-called "innovation" in the name of improving military operations and increasing their lethality. While a "strategic partnership" as represented by the UARC's participation in Department of Defense-related research may advance the Pentagon's goals of providing "the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's safety," the resources of a public University such as UH should *never* be allowed to be used for political, foreign policy, or military-related purposes.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sukhov, Ph.D.

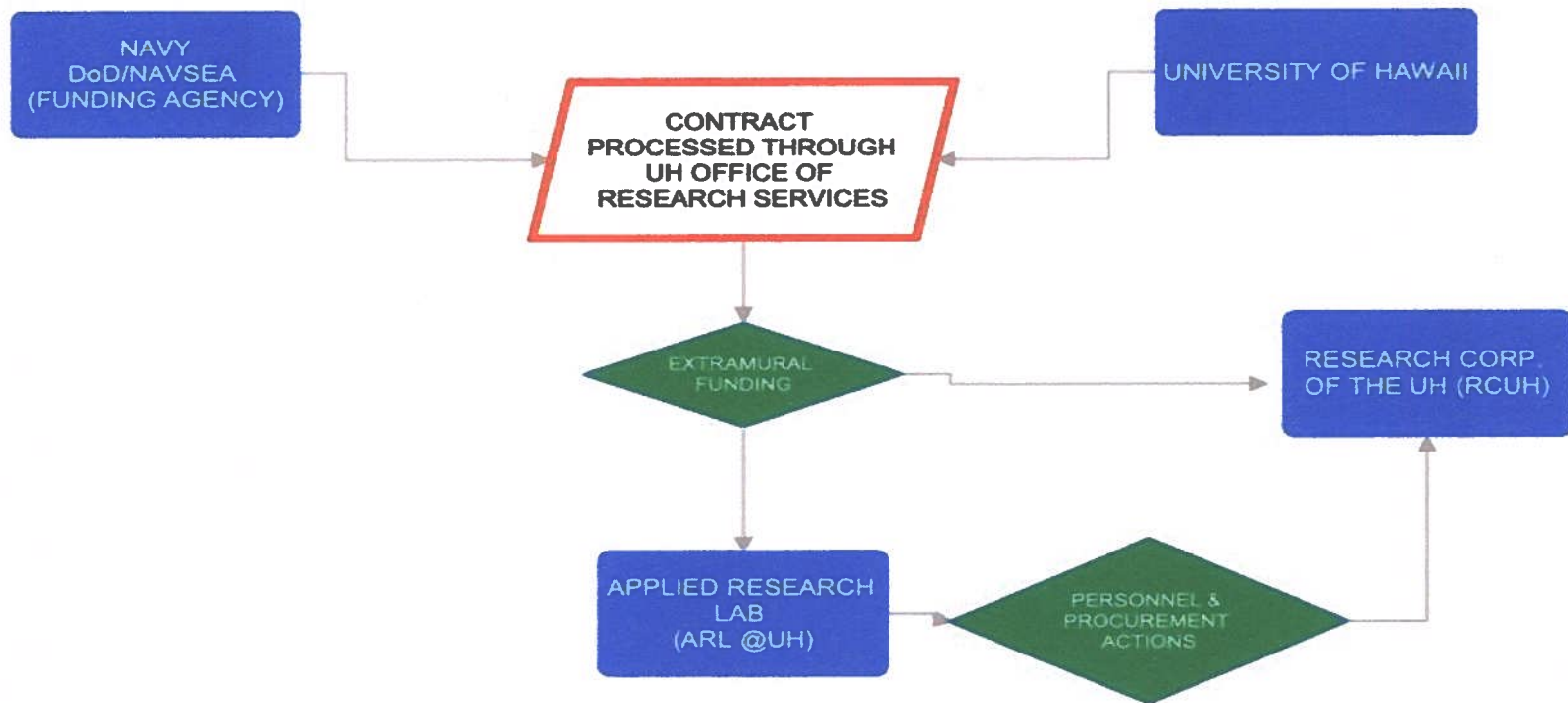
UH Utilized by the U.S. Department of Defense and Seduced by Money & Power



Brief Summary on Issues of Concern

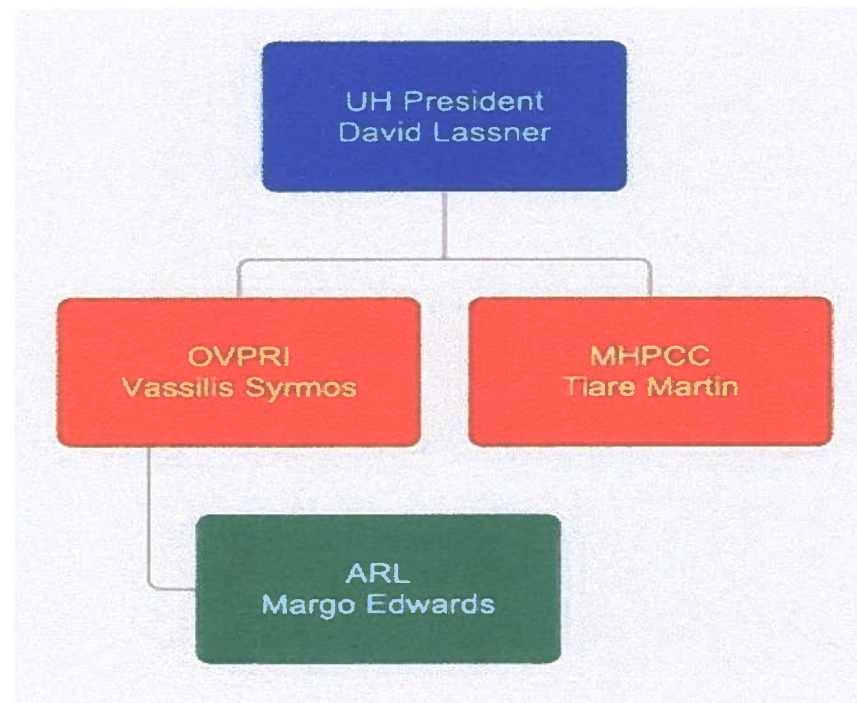
- Establishment of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) of the University of Hawaii as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) in 2008.
- Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC)/Vanguard Center – Established in 1993 and becomes part of UH/ARL in April, 2019.
- Margo Edwards is the ARL Director and Tiare Martin is the MHPCC Director and Co-P.I. of the Air Force Contract (\$75 mil.) and Task Orders from the ARL Navy Contract (approx. \$20 mil.) with David Lassner.
- Current DoD contracts (Navy & AF) are being renegotiated: Navy (2024-2029) and AF (2025-2030). Both estimated to be +300 million.
- Due to limited staffing and high pressure, a climate of intimidation and exploitation of workers led to a ARL employee to spend their own money to cover costs and began the ARL/RCUH coverup.

ARL Contract Processing in the UH System



UH Org. Chart

Supervisor for Margo Edwards & Tiare Martin



David Lassner – Principal Investigator for all MHPCC (Vanguard Center) Projects

- “The Maui High Performance Computing Center is the **largest extramural project in UH history**,” said UH President David Lassner and principal investigator. “It is the cornerstone of high-tech on Maui and provides some of the best jobs on the island.”
- Total funding for MHPCC currently is \$94,622,617 or 64% of all ARL funding
 - FA945120D0004 – Contract issued by AirForce Research Lab but administered by NAVSEA – Total Funding: \$75,000,000 (Lassner signed)
 - N00024-19-D-6400 – NAVSEA Contract Task Orders awarded to MHPCC (P.I. David Lassner & Co. P.I. Tiare Martin)(Lassner signed)
 - Task Orders with no security rating - \$11,626,159
 - Task Orders rated as Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) & Top Secret - \$7,996,458

DRAFT

UARC Strategy 2030 – President David Lassner

The DoD's long-term strategic relationship with UARCs requires ARL at UH to provide and maintain advanced and sophisticated engineering, research, and/or development capabilities essential to the Department's mission and operations. UARCs operate as independent, trusted advisors and honest brokers, agreeing to limit their operations in order to be free from real or perceived conflicts of interest. This freedom enhances the Department's ability to fight and win wars in an era of great power competition, and it will enable operators and military decision-makers to harness leading edge capabilities to capitalize on strategic and tactical opportunities that are currently unavailable. We have a responsibility to gain full value from DoD capabilities and investments, thereby earning the trust of the operational warfighter, the U.S. Congress, and the American people. Embracing the UARC strategic relationship and leveraging the freedom to innovate will improve military operations and increase lethality.

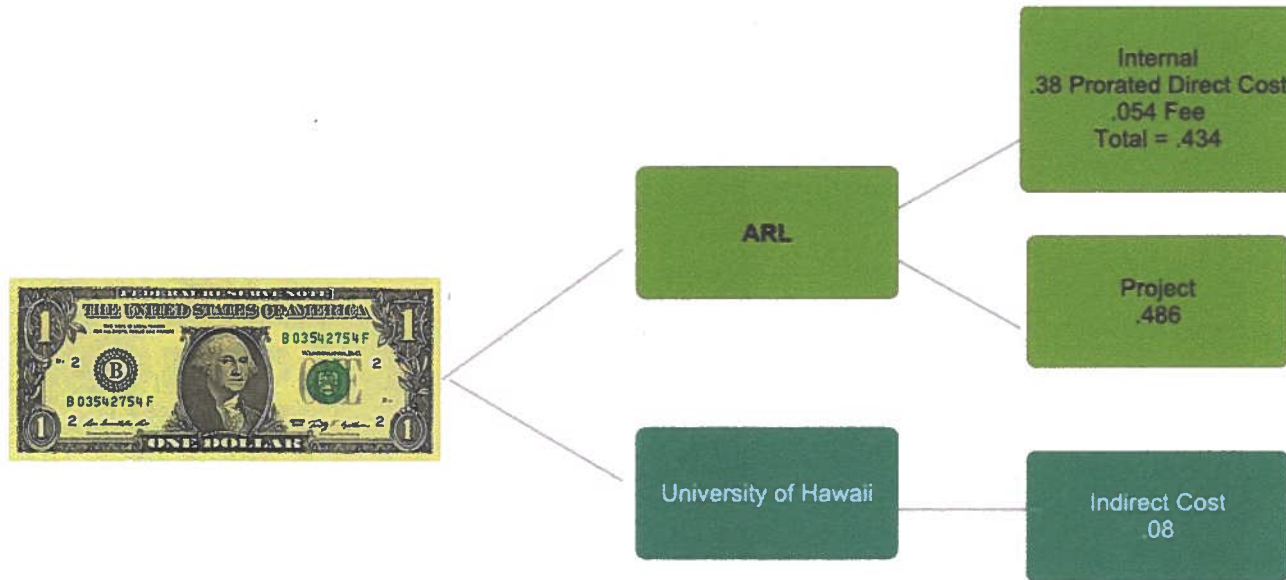
To enable this continued relationship, the ARL at UH is adopting a strategy to expand its center of excellence to address the warfighters' needs in this new era of great power competition. However, the success of these efforts depends upon fostering collaboration with our stakeholders, community, and our planet. Adversaries are also racing to amass data superiority, and whichever side can better leverage RDT&E will gain military advantage. Our ability to fight and win wars requires that we become world leaders in operationalizing and protecting our RDT&E resources at speed and scale.

The ARL at UH 2030 UARC Strategy supports the DoD's mission by providing the overarching vision guiding principles, essential capabilities, goals, and objectives to improve proficiency and efficiency everywhere, this strategy focuses efforts on (5.1), (5.2), and (5.3). Success cannot be taken for granted. The responsibility of all leaders is to treat UARCs as a strategic asset for operational effect. The warfighter is counting on us to ensure that the U.S. military remains the most potent and effective fighting force in the world.

David Lassner, PhD

University of Hawaii President

ARL Funding Diagram for every \$1 of Funding



ARL NAVSEA Contract Control of the Funding

- Individual P.I.'s control 48.6% of the funding coming in on individual task orders. Example: Task Order is awarded \$1,000, the P.I. controls \$486 of the total award.
- Prorated Direct Cost (PDC) (38%) & Fee (5.4%): All PDC & Fee charged is solely controlled by ARL Director Margo Edwards with no oversight or accountability for her decisions. Approximately \$65,968,000 total funding from the 2 contracts.
- Indirect Costs (8%): Funding controlled by OVPRI Director: Vassilis Syrmos or \$12,160,000 total ARL NAVSEA & AirForce contracts funding. Part of the funding is returned to ARL as part of the Research and Training Revolving Fund (RTRF). FY 2024, RTRF paid for RCUH fee (\$5.14 million).

UH/ARL Work Division

- UH/ARL is basically divided into 3 different departments:
 - Tech Team – Science and Engineering Employees (paid on Task Orders & Fee)
 - Info. Tech. – ITS employees with emphasis on network security (paid on PDC)
 - Administration – Fiscal and HR personnel and Management (paid on PDC)
- Margo Edwards (Dir.)
 - Paid by PDC
- All UH/ARL and MHPCC employees are RCUH Employees
- All RCUH Employees have no union protections. All complaints are filed with RCUH/HR, which is controlled by RCUH Director, Leonard Gouveia. There are no checks and balances.

Work Climate at UH/ARL

- Huge difference and disparate treatment of workers between the departments.
- Margo Edwards heavily favors the tech team therefore they receive “special” treatment.
 - Are not subject to regular working hours.
 - Allowed to work from home or exotic places they visit while on leave. Technically allowed to “telework” while on vacation, that extends their leave.
 - Treated better because they bring in the \$\$ by doing the services required by the DoD.
- Tech meetings (made up of mostly white Americans) are more “collaborative and collegial” compared to fiscal meetings (made up of more Asian Americans) which are more punitive in nature. UH/ARL administrative team places incredible pressure on employees performing fiscal work, creating, difficult and oppressive work expectations. This includes janitorial duties due to security, such as emptying trash and escorting janitorial staff (vacuuming). Jeff Dixon, who supervises the fiscal team has requested that team members be evaluated on unrealistic production and the amount of procurement actions that are processed.

“Unprecedented Event” of long-term employee paying for UH/ARL expenses from personal funds

- Administrative fiscal employee, who worked at UH/ARL for 12 years broke down due to work related stress and disclosed to UH/ARL Assoc. Director Ben Jones (no longer working in this capacity) that over the years, he paid for expenses that totaled over \$100,000 from his own personal salary.
- Evidence was discovered that documented the employee’s excessive work load with annotated notes and glimpses of employee’s state of mind. Employee worked well over 40 hours a week, eligible for overtime, but never paid overtime. No union representation at RCUH and UH/ARL covered up the fact the employee consistently worked over 40 hours. RCUH H/R is directly supervised by RCUH Director, Leonard Gouveia.
- Discovery and cover-up.
 - Employee Breakdown(s) – One in April, 2023 and the second and final one during the first week of May, 2023
 - Meetings and decisions on what information was to be collected to make a decision on pay-out
 - Employee admonished for falsifying documents and in conversations with HR was told that its in their best interest to resign. The UH/ARL employee’s actions were based on a hostile working environment including unrealistic task order expectations, insufficient staffing, and employer exploitation. The actions of this employee falsified ARL financial record keeping and budget.

Summary

There are no checks and balances at ARL at UH because the system is rigged with leadership installing sycophants to gain complete control, this regime oversees, monitors and covers up compliance requirements. Allowing the DoD to fund research, results in deliverables for the newest forms of weaponry including Electromagnetic and wavelength energy forms of warfare and is in full and blind support of current and future military actions. The majority of ARL at UH's actions do not benefit the public, rather only the military's mission of lethality. This is a glaring, obvious, and direct contradiction with the mission, goals and strategic plan of the University of Hawaii.

Also, the current system has distinct differences in treatment of employees based on implicit bias, race and favoritism, and lacks the appropriate oversight and review of these employment practices. The BOR should have an internal supervisory panel that reviews and approves how Prorated Direct Cost (38%) and Fee (5.4%) are spent, and amend the current written policy in the UH Administrative Procedure Manual 10.00-10.355, which was written in July, 2007. The new contracts with NAVSEA (Navy) and Air Force will generate an increase funding of hundreds of millions of dollars and the oversight of these funds are at the sole discretion of the Director of ARL at UH who is also responsible for covering up gross mismanagement of DOD and state funding to support research.



Testimony to End UARC Contract. Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.

1 message

Ka`ōlinokaimana Yasuoka <kaolinokaimana@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 8:53 AM



Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F. .pdf
160K

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Alison Yasuoka (UH Mānoa COE Grad Student)

Concerns Related to **Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I want to believe that UH Mānoa is an institution that stands for the justice of *all* peoples. One example of this commitment is exemplified in statements on various UH Mānoa related website pages stating that UH is a “Hawaiian Place of Learning.” In accordance with this, isn't it important that UH try its best to avoid being hypocritical? As you will see below, any connection to the military, would once again be adding to the history of atrocities against Hawai'i's āina, kai, and the people of Hawai'i. Additionally, the injustices incurred by the U.S. military against the people of Hawai'i and across Moananuiākea is mounting. Will the University of Hawai'i be complicit in these continued injustices?

To be clear, just as I do not believe in perpetuating Islamophobia, I am not anti-semitic. I do not believe in labeling all people anything. These all inclusive ways of twisting narratives is where many racist, prejudicial, discriminatory issues and practices lie. (My family was once a part of such sweeping prejudicial beliefs after December 7, 1941. My great grandfather, Giichi Tamura, was unjustly labeled “enemy aliens,” arrested, and taken to various WWII concentration camps until the end of the war–November 1945). Instead, what I stand against is war; violence against peoples; the killing of civilians and labeling it, or providing reasons that align to “collateral damage.” Rather than support research that supports the US military, how can we increase funding for research that seeks to find ways to resolve conflicts peacefully?

In alignment with my beliefs, I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military that institutionalizes and advances U.S. imperialism, destroying life on land and sea. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny. Are sensory technologies developed at the University improving the lethality of military operations? The military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. **There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. We encourage the Board of Regents to gain clarity on the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into**

consideration. Will the Board and the Public have sufficient time to review a multimillion dollar contract that involves taxpayer dollars being spent on a Public University?

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Points specific to the currently available [ARL Presentation](#):

- What is the point of having a university mission, values and strategic plan if individual researchers can ignore them in the name of "academic freedom"?
- Objection to military research funding should not be considered lightly (as an "unpopular" view) as there are serious moral, ethical, and legal frameworks that support this position
- The timeline published by ARL fails to include that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service reviewed Navy contracts that were a precursor to UARC and found them spurious. It also doesn't mention the significant opposition it has faced from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval.

Sources:

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>
- *Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Senate Resolution 06-24*: tinyurl.com/UHBoRMay15
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[\[https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf\]](https://www.dmzhawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/07924-dirty-secret-about-uarc-full-doc.pdf)
- NPS website: *Confinement and Ethnicity An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*
<http://npshistory.com/series/anthropology/wacc/74/chap17.htm#:~:text=These%20Issei%2C%20now%20classified%20as,of%20the%20Department%20of%20Justice.>
-

SFJP@UH Demands to the UH Administration:

1. Divest! Divest from ALL companies and institutions that are complicit in the Zionist occupation, apartheid, and genocide of the Palestinian people, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding UH assets, including investments, donations, and grants.

2. Boycott! Adhere to the [PACBI guidelines](#) for the international academic boycott of Israel. End UHM's independent self-designed Study Abroad Programs in Israel. Ban all academic trips to Israel, including Fulbright. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, exchanges, and research collaborations. End the strategic partnership with Israel that UH entered into along with the state of Hawai'i in 2022.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement supporting a permanent and lasting ceasefire and affirming the right of Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return .
4. Protect! Affirm the right of UH students and workers to speak out against the genocide in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Protect UH students and workers who are under attack for criticizing Israel or supporting Palestinian liberation.
5. Demilitarize! Terminate the UARC contract.
6. Educate! Provide funding for a tenure-line faculty position at the I-3 rank in West Asia and Arab and Arab Diaspora Studies, with a focus on Palestine Studies, to be housed in the Ethnic Studies Department. Provide full cost-of-attendance scholarships and support to a cohort of students from Gaza so they can complete their university educations.



Testimony: "IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i

1 message

Tatsuki kohatsu <bcbbcb.k.t@gmail.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Dear UH Board of Regents Committee,

I am attaching my comments regarding the agenda item "IS - IV.F. Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you,
Tatsuki

 **Agenda Item F.docx**
14K

September 5, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Tatsuki Kohatsu, Student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Concerns Related to Committee on Institutional Success Agenda Item F.
Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success,

I support the demand communicated to UH leadership by Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at Mānoa calling for the termination of the UARC contract. UARC enables task-ordered research from the military. There is no proof that weapons research is not conducted at the University because none of the UARC related documents are open for public scrutiny as the projects under the UARC become classified. The violent military relationship with Hawai'i is evident in practice bombing (e.g., Kahoolawe, Mākua Valley), toxic pollution (e.g., Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Puuloa), profusion of undetonated munitions and UH's testing of Agent Orange in Kauai. We must hold UH accountable for entering strategic partnerships with entities that support the production of knowledge towards death and destruction (Marañon and Rost-Banik, 2024).

Since February 2024, student advocacy against UARC has been articulated as a critical concern of students on this campus. There has still been no clarity on the current status of the renegotiation of DoD contracts through the Applied Research Laboratory. The relationship of UH with the military has faced significant concerns and opposition from students, faculty and the UH community from its inception in 2006, and every time the contract is renewed (2013 and 2018), with no public input nor approval. Such an opposition should not be considered lightly. The renewal process should be more transparent regarding the timeline of the renegotiation, the stakeholders involved, its current status, and the full process, including how public input will be taken into consideration.

Sources:

Marañon and Rost-Banik (2024) <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/06/23/editorial/island-voices/column-uh-must-cut-ties-with-u-s-navy-israel/>