

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2024

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) Maui College, Ka'a'ike Building Room 105BCD, 310 W. Ka'ahumanu Avenue, Kahului, Hawai'i, 96732, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chairs Laurie Tochiki and Laurel Loo; and Regents Neil Abercrombie, Lauren Akitake, Joshua Faumuina, William Haning, Wayne Higaki, Michael Miyahira, Diane Paloma, and Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/UH General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; UH-Maui College (UHMC) Chancellor Lui Hokoana; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2024 MEETING

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Regent Abercrombie arrived at 9:02 a.m.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony and no one signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. UH – University of Hawai'i Foundation (UHF) Contract Update

President Lassner spoke about the relationship between UH and UHF, a private, institutionally-related corporation designated as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service which serves as the central fundraising arm for the university system.

Although the foundation works closely and collaboratively with the university and a number of its affiliates, such as the UH Alumni Association, it was emphasized that UHF is a legally separate entity from UH.

In 2018, UH and UHF jointly entered into a substantially revised, three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) approved by both the board and the UHF Board of Trustees. The MOA proved to be incredibly successful in advancing the university's philanthropic efforts along with its alumni relations services. As such, the 2018 agreement was renewed for another three years in 2021, and again in 2024, under the authority delegated to the president, both times with exactly the same terms as the original MOA. Over the next three years, the effectiveness and success of the MOA can be monitored and consideration given to any appropriate adjustments should a decision be made to renew the agreement in 2027.

The university continues to do exceedingly well in securing both extramural research funding, receiving a record-setting \$615.7 million for Fiscal Year 2024, and philanthropic donations, as exemplified by the remarkable progress being made by UHF toward the \$1 billion goal of its comprehensive capital campaign, *For UH, For Hawai'i*. Although these successes are often reported on separately, President Lassner stressed they were not mutually exclusive matters and noted the extent to which the university's research mission is supported by philanthropy, mentioning large gifts received from the Simons Foundation and the Chan/Zuckerberg Foundation. Recognizing the university can do better in this arena, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UHF which is structured to help the university enhance its securing of philanthropic gifts to support research activities. The MOU also establishes a new, joint Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations, which will serve as a central point of contact for external organizations as well as researchers seeking philanthropic support for their work, and provides for improved alignment between the activities of the university's Office of Research Services and UHF, particularly on things like responding to limited submission opportunities with philanthropic organizations and ensuring positive stewardship of relationships with the university's philanthropic supporters.

B. Update on Enrollment

Twelve days prior to the start of the fall semester, enrollment numbers remain excellent. Overall, duplicated fall headcount enrollment is up just over seven percent with nine of the ten campuses in the university system experiencing increases. There has also been a growth in Student Semester Hours (SSH), the number of degree-seeking and early college students, and course sharing between campuses with SSH witnessing a significant rise of nearly six percent.

While enrollment at UHH remains down overall, the decrease in numbers is less than what has been experienced over the past two years, which is encouraging and an important first step in improving. UHH is also seeing increased enrollments of transfer students, students returning to college, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

The impact of the university's full scholarship offer to every Lahainaluna High School (LHS) student from the Class of 2024 on the enrollment statistics from this demographic has been astonishing. With nearly 119 of 216 LHS graduates from the Class of 2024 choosing to attend a campus within the university system, this will be UH's largest incoming class of Lunas ever. UHM has seen the biggest increase in enrollment from this group with 76 students registering for the fall semester as compared to 12 students registering for the fall semester in 2023. UHMC also experienced a substantial jump in the number of students from LHS registering for classes this fall. Given this data, President Lassner stated this clearly demonstrates the effect free tuition can have on the post-secondary educational aspirations of students.

C. 2024 Governor's Award for Distinguished State Service University of Hawai'i Team of the Year

President Lassner announced the university's selection of the UHMC culinary arts team as its nominee for the Governor's Award for Distinguished State Service, an award for state executive branch employees and managers given to those who exemplify the highest caliber of public service and dedication to serving the people of Hawai'i. He spoke about the extraordinary efforts of this team to assist a community in need in the aftermath of the Lahaina and Kula wildfires which included, among other things, the establishment of a food hub on campus where culinary arts program faculty and staff worked with organizations such as World Central Kitchen, Common Ground, and Chef Hui to prepare, cook, and pack approximately 200,000 meals in the span of two months for displaced residents, first responders, island visitors, and others affected by the fires. The culinary arts team also remained cognizant of its academic duties during this time. With school starting soon after the fires, faculty and staff quickly pivoted educational programming and created a special culinary course titled "*Disaster Relief Food Preparation Experience*" which enabled students to learn firsthand about disaster relief food production as they worked alongside industry chefs as well as their instructors to create and pack meals for distribution to the community. President Lassner lauded every member of UHMC's culinary team for their contributions to the success of the food hub and their valiant efforts to assist a community in need stating they will represent the university well in this competition.

D. UHMC Presentation

Chancellor Hokoana began by providing historical background on UHMC, highlighting its evolution from a traditional community college offering associate degree programs to an institution where students may now earn baccalaureate degrees from two, on-campus academic programs, and baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees from other campuses within the university system via its university center. He then proceeded to speak about some of the unique characteristics of UHMC, including its being situated within, and serving, a three-island county; present information on UHMC's fall 2023 enrollment statistics and student population demographics; tout the success of efforts to address a six-year trend in declining enrollment, which has led to UHMC seeing a 7.1 percent increase in overall headcount enrollment for fall 2023; and note increases in several enrollment classifications as compared to 2023. He also touched upon various actions undertaken by UHMC to support and serve Maui Nui after the wildfire disaster

such as making campus facilities available for use by emergency management and disaster relief agencies as a community hub to assist individuals impacted by the wildfires; teaming up with UHF and the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly to afford direct financial support to faculty and staff affected by the wildfires; the creation of additional workforce development training programs in the trades, including construction; the establishment of gardens modeled after UHMC's Kauluwehi Gardens to cultivate seedlings for planting in the Lahaina and Kula burn areas to address erosion and other issues; providing technical assistance through the institution's Water Quality Laboratory for the conducting of nearshore ocean studies in Lahaina to assess water quality and the impacts of the wildfires on the marine environment; and the exploration of opportunities to harness community insights, indigenous wisdom, and advanced restoration systems for the revitalization of Lahaina in a sustainable manner. Additionally, a timeline for the provision of financial assistance and other forms of support to meet the educational and everyday needs of university students from Maui impacted by the wildfires was reviewed.

Referencing President Lassner's previous statement regarding the provision of scholarships to LHS students from the Class of 2024, Chancellor Hokoana went over specific data related to the impact this endeavor has had on enrollment at UHMC and the post-secondary aspirations of the noted cohort. He also highlighted activities undertaken to support the mental health and social interface needs of LHS seniors who started high school during the COVID-19 pandemic and began the last year of this journey in the wake of the wildfires.

Chancellor Hokoana concluded his presentation by talking about a few of the challenges facing UHMC, in particular those related to retaining personnel, enrollment, and underutilized facilities, and the potential opportunities for the institution to address them going forward.

Regent Wilson praised and thanked Chancellor Hokoana for the leadership he displayed after the wildfires stating the actions he took and his inspirational spirit played an essential part in uplifting not only the UHMC 'ohana but also the community of Maui Nui during a difficult time.

Chancellor Hokoana thanked Regent Wilson for his compliments but stressed that without teamwork and assistance from across the university system, what occurred at UHMC would not have been possible.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of Authorizing the University of Hawai'i to Continue to Lead the State Broadband Initiative, and Enter Into a Ground Lease with Google LLC's Single Purpose Entity for Real Properties at Kaua'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu**
- 2. Approval of Amendments to Board of Regents Policy (RP) 6.208 Board Exemptions to Nonresident Tuition**

3. Approval of Executive/Managerial Salary Adjustments for All Executive/Managerial Employees Meeting Performance Expectations Except Positions that Report to the Board of Regents

Regent Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Regent Haning, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Regent Abercrombie moved to convene into executive session, seconded by Regent Miyahira, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and to consult with the board's attorneys on question and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), HRS.

The meeting recessed at 9:37 a.m.

Regent Loo left at 9:55 a.m.

Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 10:03 a.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as stated on the agenda.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS (Continued)

A. Personnel Actions (Attachment A-1 for approval)

President Lassner sought approval for the appointment of Della Teraoka, who currently serves as the Associate VP for Academic Affairs in the Office of the VP for Community Colleges, as Interim VP for Community Colleges at the same salary as the prior incumbent.

Regent Abercrombie moved to approve the appointment of Della Teraoka as Interim VP for Community Colleges as requested, seconded by Regent Wilson, and noting the excused absence of Vice-Chair Loo, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

B. Approval of Salary Adjustments for Positions that Report to the Board of Regents

Chair Lee explained that Regents Policy 9.212 requires the board to approve any salary adjustments for Executive and Managerial (EM) personnel reporting directly to the board which includes the President, Board Secretary, and Director of the Office of Internal Audit. Accordingly, board action is necessary to extend the salary adjustment received by other eligible EM personnel of the university to the three direct reports, each of whom was evaluated to have met the performance criteria established by the board. However, it was noted President Lassner has declined to accept any salary adjustments

and both the Board and Committee on Governance Chairs recommend the board honor his request.

Regent Miyahira moved to approve the salary increase for the Board Secretary and Director of the Office of Internal Audit and honor President Lassner's request to forego a salary increase as recommended in Chair Lee's memorandum to the board, seconded by Regent Wilson, and noting the excused absence of Vice-Chair Loo, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Lee announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for September 19, 2024, at Leeward Community College.

Regent Akitake thanked the UHMC 'ohana for the warm welcome received by regents, stating she was born and raised on Maui and, as such, was bursting with pride about the accomplishments of, and amazing things taking place on, the Maui campus.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents