

## 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) \*

Dr. Robyn Misaye Garner

Your Organization (optional)

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

robymgarner@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

11 September 2024

Aloha Members of the Board of Regents,

I am Dr. Robyn Garner, a 5th generation kama'aina, born and raised on Maui. I am a graduate of the University of Hawaii and the University of Maryland Global Campus. My career began in the U.S. Navy where I served as an Information Systems Technician before advancing through Officer Candidate School to become a Cryptologic Warfare Officer, a role within the Navy's Information Dominance Community. In 2019, I transitioned from active duty to the reserves and returned home to Maui where I began civilian employment

at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH), working at the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) as a Project Manager for the Applied Research Laboratory of the University of Hawaii (ARL UH). Currently, I am a contractor who specializes in Cybersecurity Strategy for the Department of Defense.

As a generational resident of Hawaii, the well-being of our islands and our people is of utmost importance to me. I am committed to fostering a thriving culture, community, and economy. It is with this spirit of *lokahi* and *kuleana* that I will continue to advocate and fight for the best interests of our state. The unauthorized release of this document undermines these efforts, but it also reinforces my resolve to ensure that our strategic initiatives are both respected and realized.

I am compelled to address a critical issue concerning a draft strategy outline I authored while working at the University, intended to guide and enhance business initiatives at ARL UH. This document, unfortunately, has been released to the public in an unauthorized and significantly altered form. I was neither consulted, nor informed that my strategy outline was released or altered, and both were done so without my permission. Part of the intent of this strategy was to build meaningful, well-compensated jobs in Hawaii, with the aim to bolster education by providing opportunities for students, instructors, and industry professionals to work with ARL UH in creating innovative solutions for a variety of problem sets. This initiative is particularly important as it aligns with the broader goals of diversifying Hawaii's economy, traditionally reliant on tourism, by emphasizing Science and Innovation as a primary income source. The University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) provides a unique opportunity to advance this vision, contributing significantly to local economic development and educational enhancement.

Moreover, the Department of Defense (DoD), as a customer of the University's research organizations, requires innovative solutions across various sectors including medical, housing, sustenance, technology, and logistics. The strategy in my outline aimed to leverage Hawaii's unique capabilities and resources to address these needs, thereby creating a symbiotic relationship between the state and national defense initiatives. This approach not only supports the DoD's mission but also promotes sustainable economic growth and development within Hawaii, ensuring long-term benefits for the community.

The strategy outline was developed to assist ARL UH in crafting a business strategy to support key stakeholders, including the State of Hawaii, University of Hawaii (UH), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), and MHPCC. At the time of its unauthorized release, the strategy outline was still in its formative stages, with substantial work yet to be completed. This is particularly evident in the outline's initial sections, where ARL UH began to populate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the document highlight ARL UH's core values and guiding principles—such as integrity, honesty, fairness, diversity and inclusion, teamwork, people, and culture—which represent their identified strengths.

Recognizing the significant role ARL UH plays in the growth of Hawaii's economy and its global impact, it was crucial to set the stage of the document with an important focal point. The foreword of the document was a preliminary draft, adapted from the DoD's Data Strategy Foreword to provide a starting point. It was intentionally generic because it was still undetermined who the most appropriate signatory would be, as noted in the comment, "Not sure if this should come from the University President or an outside source, such as NAVSEA." The inclusion of a potential signatory was intended to emphasize the importance of the strategy to the team developing its content and the strategy's potential impact on ARL UH's future. However, the outline remained unsigned and in draft form as of the last time I interacted with it.

It is with profound disappointment that I address the unauthorized release of this outline. The protest group that used this document as evidence for their cause failed to critically analyze its content or verify its authenticity. A simple internet search would have revealed the source of the foreword, which utilizes common DoD language to honor and support our troops, who dedicate their lives to our safety and freedom every day. This search would have also highlighted the document's incomplete status, evidenced by the

absence of a wet signature, indicating that the strategy was neither finalized nor approved. The use of the draft document that I authored by a protest group was without my knowledge or permission, and to the best of my knowledge, was never signed/endorsed/finalized by the President of the University or any other member of the staff or faculty.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robyn M. Garner, DM, PMP

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

**ARL UH Testimony.pdf** (1.7 MB)

11 September 2024

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Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn M. Garner", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Robyn M. Garner, DM, PMP

# UARC Strategy 2030

Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i

**Commented [RGCT]:** Recommend using the same cover page as the ARL UH Annual Report.

## FOREWORD

The Department of Defense's (DoD) mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's security. The DoD has long recognized that American Universities are the leading edge of research, development, and engineering and can be a strategic asset in order to provide a lethal and effective Joint Force, that combined with our network of allies and partners, sustains American influence and advances shared security and prosperity. Officially established by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)) in 1996, DoD University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) served to formalize the strategic relationship of research centers affiliated with universities, some of which started during World War II.

Established in 2008, the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH) is the fifth of five Navy-sponsored UARCs. The ARL at UH serves as a center of excellence for critical Navy and national defense needs, conducting research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) to address challenging and emerging problems. ARL at UH efforts focus on Ocean Environmental Effects; Astronomical Research; Advance Electro-Optical Systems, Detectors, Arrays and Instrumentation; Environmental Sensor Research and Remote Sensing; New Renewable Energy; and Mission-Related and Public-Services-Oriented Research and Development.

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 are 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

Commented [RG2]: Not sure if this should come from the University President or an outside Source, such as NAVSEA.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Problem Statement

The Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawaii (ARL at UH) University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) Strategy 2030, as a key component of the Department of Defense's (DoD) UARC Management Plan, supports the National Defense Strategy (NDS) by enhancing military effectiveness through adaptation and fortification of our defense ecosystem. In addition to combat effectiveness, DoD leaders – including UARCs, DoD Sponsors, DoD Contracting Activities, and DoD Tasking Activities – require bleeding-edge research to produce and sustain the full range of capabilities needed to give U.S., allied, and partners forces a competitive advantage.

Warfighters at all echelons require advanced manufacturing processes to increase our ability to reconstitute the Joint Force in a major conflict. The advanced capabilities provided by the DoD's UARC Management Plan and NDS, depend upon the DoD to strengthen the defense industrial base. Acting urgently to better support advanced manufacturing processes, working closely with Congress on reforms needed to accelerate transitions, increasing collaboration with UARCs in priority areas - especially with space and cyber - and prioritizing efforts with the full range of domestic and international partners in the defense ecosystem, fortifies our research advancements, logistical systems, and relevant global supply chains against subversion, compromise, and theft.

This strategy describes the problem and established the vision, guiding principles, essential capabilities, goals, and objectives for ARL at UH to meet the requirements of the UARC Management Plan, NDS, and (something from UH and/or State of Hawaii). Figure 1 shows the relationship of these different aspects to one another. The problem statement and scope, stated below, define the ARL at UH's first order problem and to whom it applies. The vision statement captures the future state of data. ARL at UH will achieve its vision based on the guiding principles and focused by goals and objectives. Essential capabilities cut across goals and enumerate broad enterprise capabilities.

Commented [RGC3]: Add Figure 1 after this paragraph

<Insert Figure 1>

## 1.2. Scope

The ARL at UH 2030 UARC Strategy applies to all ARL UH employees and its operations.

# 2. Vision and Guiding Principles

## 2.1. Vision Statement

The University of Hawaii at Manoa's mission is to cultivate the potential within each member of our community.

The ARL UH on Maui (ARL-Maui) serves as a center of excellence for critical Navy and national defense needs, conducting research, development, testing and evaluation (RD&E) to address challenging and emerging problems. ARL-Maui efforts focus on High Performance Computing and Networking, Cybersecurity, High Performance Digital Engineering, Data Science and Visualization to support the Department of Defense (DoD) Stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Commented [RGC4]: Need to hold a "mediation session" to create an ARL UH Mission, list core values, and guiding principles.

We can obtain this through the SWOT and TOWS analysis.

Section 2 is just an example.



## 2.2. Mission Statement

The Applied Research Lab 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.

## 2.3. Core Values

**2.3.1. Integrity:** Acting with strong ethics is a priority for everyone representing the organization as well as the company's behavior as a whole. (Be direct, sensitive, and honest; address incivility)

**2.3.2. Honesty:** Act in a transparent, trustworthy manner that earns the respect of colleagues, customers, and the public. (welcome feedback from each other, be approachable)

**2.3.3. Fairness:** Treat everyone with the common decency we all deserve and expect (treat each other equally and with respect, respect each other's commitments)

**2.3.4. Accountability:** Accept responsibility for actions (and inactions) to build trust internally and externally (be mindful of our impact on others)

**2.3.5. Diversity and Inclusion:** Organizations succeed by bringing different lived experiences and a range of backgrounds into a shared environment where everyone has equal opportunity (Laugh together)

**2.3.6. Learning:** No one has all the answers, a culture of humility and continuous learning is a bedrock principle of successful organizations. (Listen to each other)

**2.3.7. Teamwork:** When people work together, they can create something greater than themselves as individuals (Shared purpose, acknowledge and encourage each other, help each other)

**2.3.8. Quality:** Organizations are judged by the craftsmanship of their products and services, so the highest standards must be maintained.

## 2.4. Guiding Principles

**2.4.1. People and Culture:** Keeping people fulfilled and allowing knowledge to be easily transferred from one individual to another.

**2.4.2. Process Optimization:** Apply push-strategy to effectively conduct R&D, encode and record knowledge, such as performance based measures and costs and reporting standards, on shared repositories.

**2.4.3. Modernized Technology:** Key factors to streamlining collection and future access to knowledge include customizability, user access permissions, data analysis capabilities, user interface, flexibility, and integrations with existing systems

**2.4.4. Strategy:** Align R&D activities with the broader organizational strategies of the University and the DoD to prioritize value generating projects over those with less impact.

### 3. Essential Capabilities

3.1. Location, Location, Location

3.2. Talent and Culture

3.3.

**Commented [RGC5]:** Comes from the SWOT

### 4. Goals and Enabling Objectives

#### 4.1. Goal: Organize & Expand ARL UH Across the State of Hawaii

- **ARL at UH Alignment: Integrate with and help to build ARL at UH business processes; Operate as one team!**
  - Attend conferences and program reviews as ARL at UH.
  - Help to build and define ARL at UH policies.
  - Collaborate on at least three proposals and one project every year.
  - Attend ARL tech meetings to understand ARL at UH Oahu projects

**Commented [RGC6]:** Comes from the TOWS

**Commented [RGC7]:** UARC's Requirements from the UARC Management Plan:  
-Comprehensive conflict of interest policy compliant with DoD policy and consistent with the UARC contract's conflict.  
-Collaborate with its Primary Sponsor and Tasking Activities to define and prioritize UARC work in a manner that is responsive to overall DoD priorities.  
-Have effective mechanisms for ensuring the work of the Primary Sponsor is not disrupted by tasking/funding from other Tasking Activities.

#### 4.2. Goal: Tackle DoD R&D Priorities in the Pacific AOR

- **Research & Development Thrust Areas: Advance High Performance Computing and Networking, Cybersecurity, High Performance Digital engineering, Data Science and Visualization.**
  - High Performance Computing and Networking
    - Establish ARL-Maui DREN connection with ARL-Maui High Performance Computing resources
    - Introduce HPCMP to ARL at UH and the benefits of working with a UARC
  - Cybersecurity
    - Three-year Authority to Operate for the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC)
    - Transition PEcoC to DoD Cyber Command
  - High Performance Digital Engineering
    -
  - Data Science and Visualization
  - Mine PEcoC data to provide enhanced data visualizations to DoD stakeholders.

#### 4.3. Goal: Grow STEM Jobs throughout the State of Hawaii

- **Workforce Development: Build a pipeline of skilled innovative workers from college through career.**
  - Define pipeline to quickly recruit and onboard new students.
  - Support two interns every year.
  - Provide training for team members; HPCMP sabbatical
  - Establish new team member onboarding.
  - Attend Maui and Hawaii tech events.

4.4. Goal: Make R&D Secure & Accessible

4.5. Goal: Foster Collaboration with UARCs, National Labs, and FVEYs Partners

4.6. Goal: Grow Capabilities in Hawaii

- **Build Strategic Business Partners: Nurture existing DoD Stakeholders relationships to support and solve their high priority problems**
  - Build relationships with HPCMP government and contractors; Meet with HPCMP leadership quarterly
  - Department of Navy Modeling and Simulation
  - IndoPACOM

4.7. Goal: Incubate Innovation

## 5. Operationalizing the Strategy

5.1. Core Competencies/Focus Areas

5.2. ARL UH Sites

5.3. Implementation Plans

5.3.1. Business Operations and Organizational Structures

5.3.1.1. *Leadership Structure and Subordinate Sites*

5.3.1.2. *Human Resources, Recruiting, Training, Development, Career Path Management*

5.3.1.3. *Facilities, Logistics, Inventory*

5.3.1.4. *Strategies & Plans, Future Opportunities, Business Growth*

5.3.1.5. *Information Systems Management*

5.3.1.6. *Budget/Fiscal Administration, Travel*

5.3.2. R&D Operations

5.3.2.1. *Ocean Research*

5.3.2.2. *Astronomy*

5.3.2.3. *Sensor Development*

5.3.2.4. *Remote Sensing*

5.3.2.5. *Renewable Energy*

5.3.2.6. *Public Sector*

5.3.3. Vanguard Center for High Performance Computing (ARL UH Maui)

5.3.4. (ARL UH Big Island)

## 6. Conclusion

## 7. Bibliography

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<https://media.defense.gov/2022/Oct/27/2003103845/-1/-1/1/2022-NATIONAL-DEFENSE-STRATEGY-NPR-MDR.PDF>
3. Applying Knowledge Management Principles to R&D: <https://intuitix.co/applying-knowledge-management-principles-to-rd/>
4. Department of Defense Research & Engineering Enterprise FFRDC/UARC Site:  
<https://rt.cto.mil/ffrdc-uarc/#:~:text=Historically%2C%20UARCs%20were%20officially%20established,cases%20dated%20back%20to%20WWII>
5. FY 2010 DoD University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) Management Plan:  
<https://rt.cto.mil/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/UARC-Mgmt-Plan-jun-23-10-FINAL-6811-with-Signed-Memo.pdf>
6. UH Manoa Strategic Plan:  
<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/#:~:text=Mission%20and%20Vision,-Our%20Mission%3A%20E&text=We%20cultivate%20creative%20and%20innovative,our%20islands%20and%20the%20world.>
- 7.

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Your Name (required) \*

Joe Gilmore

Your Organization (optional)

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

The-cne@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Ben Jones

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory at UH

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

bnyjones@gmail.com

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Please see attached testimony

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Sept 13th, 2024

Dr. Ben Jones  
Kailua, Hawai'i

**Letter in support of the Applied Research Laboratory at UH (Agenda Item BoR VII.C.)**

Members of the Board,

I am submitting this testimony in support of the request for approval to indemnify the federal government for NAVSEA contract N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory at UH.

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'ōhe. 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.

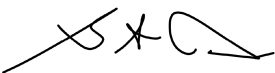
**Student involvement:** In my six years at ARL, my research projects have supported over 30 students including 19 graduate students with most of the research directly applicable to their graduate theses. All of the research area listed above have included students in Hawai'i many of whom who have gone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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Jones

## 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) \*

Jamie Long

Your Organization (optional)

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

jamiel@lai-hawaii.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Sean Mahaffey

Your Organization (optional)

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

seanhoy@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

I want to express my strongest support for ARL at UH and urge the Board of Regents to approve the indemnification provisions for the proposed ARL contract renewal with NAVSEA. 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 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 afterwards, this time as a technical program manager, where I have served in that role for over a year and a half.

ARL 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 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 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 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 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 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

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Ana Manrique

Your Organization (optional)

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

homeandoffice24@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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

## 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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see the uploaded document.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)





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) \*

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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please find document attached.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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,

Kainani Santos

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Sylvie Rusay

Your Organization (optional)

Le Jardin Academy

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

srusay@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I currently work in the school environment on the island and have two school-aged children. I see first-hand the need for more opportunities on the island to engage children in science, technology, engineering, art, and math fields. The opportunities that ARL provides through their high-school to graduate-school internship programs and the involvement of college students in applied projects is a resource we should be nourishing in Hawai'i. I strongly support the renewal of the Applied Research Laboratory's contract in order to support more opportunities in technical fields within our State.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Eugene Burkley

Your Organization (optional)

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

eugeneburkley@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Victoria Burkley

Your Organization (optional)

N/A

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

vickieburkley@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my strong support for Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). I have had impressed by their dedication, professionalism, and impact on the community.

I wholeheartedly endorse ARL at UH and encourage you to consider their request to approval the proposed contract with the NAVSEA. Your support will enable them continue to conduct cutting-edge research in the areas of Ocean Environmental Effects; Astronomical Research; Advanced Electro-Optical Systems, Detectors, Arrays and Instrumentation; Environmental Sensor Research and Remote Sensing; New Renewable Energy; and Mission-Related and Public-Services-Oriented Research and Development.

Thank you for considering my letter of support.

Thank you,

Victoria Burkley

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and Board of Regents,  
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 ARL.

One of the key benefits of ARL 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 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 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.

Sincerely,  
Carl Carlson

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

No file attached

### Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Shujie Chang

Your Organization (optional)

Georgia Tech Research Institute

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

Shujie.chang@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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.

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Edward 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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

September 14, 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 (14.4 kB)**

September 14, 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,

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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

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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.

**Personally:** 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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***\*\*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) \*

Charles Fletcher

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii

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

fletcher@soest.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Office of the Dean

To: Board of Regents  
From: Charles Fletcher, Interim Dean  
Date: Sept. 14, 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) \*

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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and Board of Regents

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 job 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  
14 September 2024

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Josh Levy

Your Organization (optional)

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

levyjosh@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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.

Thank you for your time,  
Josh Levy

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Jeffrey Long

Your Organization (optional)

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

jeffl@lai-hawaii.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Cami Matsu

Your Organization (optional)

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

Cami.nagata@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the renewal of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH) contract renewal with the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

During my employment with ARL at UH, our collaboration has resulted in significant achievements that will have positive impact on our local communities. As an example, ARL at UH, in partnership with University of California San Diego-Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Florida Atlantic University, Ohio State University and Makai Ocean Engineering, are developing a living breakwater system designed to protect Hawai'i's

coastlines from erosion. These structures are developed to reduce wave impact as well as encourage coral growth and provide habitat for marine life. The project, funded by the Department of Defense, reflects UH's dedication to addressing climate challenges and preserving our vital ecosystems.

Our team has worked diligently to develop agile, innovative, cost-effective solutions to problems impacting our stakeholder, our community, and our planet.

Looking ahead, I am confident that ARL at UH will continue to achieve remarkable success. I am excited to see the continued positive impact our operations will have on our local communities. Please know that this contract renewal has my full support.

Thank you.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Ted Ralston

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Pacific Foundation, Hawaii Pacific Advisory Group

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

ted.ralston@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Approval to Indemnify will allow UH ARL to grow in importance to the University and Hawaii.

Applied Research is an increasingly important extension of University fundamental research into the world of real problems. ARL has been a most successful component of UH, serving the State, the DOD sponsor, and the University itself. To University graduates, ARL provides important post-graduate careers and doctoral educational opportunities while reducing expatriation to the mainland. To undergrad and scholastic interns ARL provides exposure to inform their future educational pathways. To its staff and campus partners ARL provides the opportunity to perform in the real-world problem-solving space, supplementing traditional education leading to rewarding internal or external careers.

The real world of the Pacific is changing in ways for which we are not prepared. Climate consequences are destabilizing Pacific geopolitics while stressing Island agriculture, economy, and sustainability. Island life as we know it is being reshaped increasingly by devastating events - explosive disasters such as Lahaina, or slow-rolling disasters such as in the low atolls of COFA nations. An ever-increasing need exists for University strengths to be focused on understanding Pacific threats, mitigations, and solution options.

There is no UH unit better able to address the expanding Pacific challenges than an expanded, multi-disciplinary ARL. Whether the Pacific threats are viewed as military, civil, environmental, or cultural, the solutions converge in a manner far removed from the continental frame of reference. When viewed from an isolated and unique Island perspective, our unappreciated long, thin, vulnerable dependencies expose the need for Pacific-specific solutions and an expanded ARL to work them.

ARL is currently Navy-sponsored...what if ARL were Multi-sponsored, matching the multi-challenges facing us? What if support were drawn additionally from Dept of Homeland Security, from Dept of Interior, from Dept of Health, from Dept of Commerce, from Dept of Transportation... into integrated solutions based on Island realities?

What if ARL were charged to think about the Big Picture affecting all of the Pacific, interpreted in an Island context: the need for Durable Persistent Communication; Predictive Awareness of threats; Informed Resilience driving mitigation; Crisis Health bridging to remoteness; and Unified Command – the ability to operate together in discovery, preparation, planning, and action.

Let's build on ARL's successes as Problem-Solving Ambassadors from UH. ARL can serve the Federal Govt. ARL can serve the State and Counties. ARL can serve the Community. ARL can serve the Pacific.

Progressive transition into such a multi-support, multi-benefactor structure would need to be driven by CODEL, demanded and overseen by federal and local stakeholders, and powered by multi-talented, multi-cultural, motivated staff. Relentless advocacy, continuous coordination, and inspired transformational motivation would characterize the campaign to achieve a broadened ARL to serve the futures of Hawaii and the Pacific.

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

Ted Ralston



Hawaii Pacific Advisory Group, Hawaii Pacific Foundation – NHO

808.738.6814

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Gerry Smith

Your Organization (optional)

Retired

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

goofyfootmaui@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

I support approval of the indemnification provisions set forth in the proposed ARL contract with NAVSEA.

I have been a Maui resident for over ten years. In that time, I have seen the impacts of both the closure of HC&S, and COVID. Before that, it was 9/11. All of these events were beyond the control of Maui residents, yet had huge impacts on the local economy.

The Applied Research Lab provides jobs in the tech sector that are not dependent on tourism. These jobs are perfect for young Maui residents with STEM educations who have completed their schooling and wish to return home. Without tech jobs, the “brain drain” will continue.

I have seen several Maui students intern at ARL, finish their degree at UH, then return to Maui as full time ARL employees and flourish. They are still there. Please provide every opportunity for our young students to return to Maui and have a meaningful tech career.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Laurence Sombardier

Your Organization (optional)

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

lsombardier@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

The University of Hawaii Applied Research Laboratory was formed in 2008 and since its inception, has leveraged UH expertise to attract extramural funding to the State of Hawaii to support important research in areas critical to Hawaii including ocean technology, renewable energy, sensor development and remote sensing.

As a center of excellence for Navy and national defense, ARL provides an opportunity to develop a Hawaii-based workforce in the critical areas of cybersecurity, environmental sensing, climate mitigation, and environmental cleanup, in particular in regards to munitions.

I would like to provide my support for this UH organization and hope that the UH Board of Regents can help facilitate continued work by ARL.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this support.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Katie Timboe

Your Organization (optional)

Tiny Hat Creative

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

katie@tinyhatcreative.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and Board of Regents,  
I am writing to you as a Hawai'i 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Timboe

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

[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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Mark Aruda

Your Organization (optional)

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

Mark.aruda@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 wide 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 ARL's 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) \*

Marine Bissonnette

Your Organization (optional)

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

bissoma@yahoo.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

The ARL at UH provides essential support to defend our countries and its allies in the Pacific. ARL conducts fundamental research to help protect our shoreline and marine environment while providing employment to dozens of Hawai'i natives and conducting outreach to encourage students to pursue a career in STEM in Hawai'i. As a scientist, educator at WCC, and Oahu resident for the past 16 years, I understand the benefits of having the ARL as a state of the art research facility and strongly support the approval of the indemnity clause.

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) \*

Christine Davis

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Graduate

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

christinemdavis808@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Sophia Davis

Your Organization (optional)

UH Student

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

sodavis10@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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

**In regards to Agenda Item "BOR – VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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. Additionally, the ARL hosted events made**

**free and open to the public, where regular citizens had the opportunity to safely learn how to operate drones, allowing them to understand how the ARL was working with local responders to maintain and improve the community.**

**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) \*

Yosef Ben Gershom

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory

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

yosef@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Stephen Gima

Your Organization (optional)

RCUH

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

ssgima1@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Being a long time employee of RCUH, I have realized a rewarding career in the high performance computing sector. None of this would have been possible without the continued support of ARL-UH and the contracts that provide funding for the Maui High Performance Computing Center. Please approve this and future contracts for the ARL-UH so that I and other Maui residents can continue to live and work and contribute to the community that we love.

Thank You,

Stephen Gima  
Senior Computer Systems Engineer  
MHPCC

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Thomas LaCroix

Your Organization (optional)

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

tlincorporated@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

September 15th, 2024

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Aloha, this Testimony is in regards to Agenda Item VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) For Proposed Contract N00024-24-D-6402 with The Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i. 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

[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 Lucey

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

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

lucey@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL\_support\_lucey.pdf (72.4 kB)

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology  
Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

September 15, 2024

University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Dear Regents,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued operation and funding of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i. The ARL has demonstrated immense value to both our state and the broader world through its vital contributions in science, technology, environmental stewardship and economic impact. For example, Hawai'i's reefs are among the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, and ARL's research contributes to ensuring their long-term resilience. Through environmental sensing and early warning systems, the lab plays a crucial role in safeguarding our unique ecosystems, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change and other environmental threats. ARL's support for munitions detection and assessment programs is critical for both environmental protection and public safety. These efforts help address and mitigate the risks posed by unexploded ordnance in Hawai'i and around the world, ensuring that our natural environments remain safe for future generations. As we face the realities of climate change, ARL's pioneering work in wave energy and renewable energy technologies offers a path toward a sustainable future. The lab's efforts in this area are helping to establish Hawai'i as a leader in renewable energy innovation, with long-term benefits for both our environment.

Since 2008, ARL has brought \$175 million into Hawai'i's economy, creating jobs and fostering local business collaborations. The lab is not only an intellectual powerhouse but also an economic engine that provides financial benefits to our state through increased funding and workforce opportunities. The ARL is committed to workforce development, especially in technology and tech-adjacent fields. By offering training and career pathways for University of Hawaii students, ARL is preparing Hawai'i's future workforce for high-demand, high-paying jobs that are crucial to our state's long-term economic success.

Given the significant contributions ARL makes in terms of environmental protection, renewable energy development, scientific research, and economic growth, I urge you to continue supporting this invaluable institution. Its work is critical to the future of Hawai'i, and I believe continued investment in ARL will yield long-lasting benefits for both our environment and our economy.

Sincerely,



Researcher, HIGP

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Emily Layman Perkins

Your Organization (optional)

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

emilylayman@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

ARL's research is critical for defense purposes while making important progress on issues that affect the state and the environment.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Kyle Schultz

Your Organization (optional)

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

Kylelynnschultz@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Hawaii is a beautiful place surrounded by a magnificent ocean. The reef must be protected at all costs in order to protect the land and ecosystems that exist here.

The project, spearheaded by the Applied Research Laboratory at UH (ARL at UH) in partnership with UHMānoa's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology(SOEST), has completed the first concrete reef structure, and full production is now underway for 60 units. Pending permit approval, the project is on track for its first deployment of a 50-meter array of structures near the Ulupa'u crater, off the Kailua Bay side of Marine Corps Base Hawai'i in late 2024, early 2025.

the incorporation of these structures is beneficial and necessary to protect the reef that has been here longer than we've been alive and that will hopefully be here long after we're gone

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

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Robert Wright

Your Organization (optional)

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

wright@higp.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**bor\_wright\_arl\_0924.pdf** (184.6 kB)



Robert Wright  
Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology  
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology  
1680 East-West Rd., Honolulu, HI 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-8760 Email: wright@higp.hawaii.edu

9/15/24

TO: Gabriel Lee,  
Chair of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Robert Wright  
Director, Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

SUBJECT: The importance of the University of Hawai'i Applied Research Laboratory

Dear Chairman Lee.

I write to you with some thoughts on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) of the University of Hawai'i. I am the Director of the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, here at UHM. My research is focused on using satellites to study active volcanoes, and developing new sensing instruments and micro satellites to make those measurements. My research has never been funded by, or via, the UH ARL. Although there are many points I could raise here, I will stick to two.

1. UARCs are not the machinery of war.

The ARL is funded by the Department of Defense, in support of U.S National Security objectives. But the UH ARL is not making weapons. The focus of our ARL could be described as developing technology and systems for environmental monitoring, or more generally 'situational awareness', not for 'doing harm'. For example, the ARL, with UH faculty and students, have developed ocean-deployed drones for detecting chemical weapons dumped in Hawaiian waters after World War II – essential if those items are to be cleaned up. In the news last week we saw how ARL is working with other researchers at UHM to develop and deploy 'fake reefs' with the aim of not only slowing coastal erosion in Hawai'i, but also to test how living corals and the ecosystems they support (of great value to the State, for many reasons) can thrive in the inevitably warmer waters of the future. ARL is currently working with UHM to develop wave energy solutions, essential to stabilizing our energy supply. In the past, the ARL has developed systems for use in man-overboard emergencies, to quickly detect sailors in rough seas. In my opinion (which others may not share), developing technology for saving sailors who fall overboard, and infrastructure for protecting Hawaii's coastlines, does not constitute the militarization of our campus.

UARCs in general conduct research that has broader applications than national defense. Here are two examples amongst many, but examples with ties to Hawai'i. Dr Brett Denevi conducted her Ph.D. research here, in my institute. She was recently selected as the chief scientist who will lead NASA's Artemis III Geology Team, which will conduct exhaustive studies of the geology of the Moon in anticipation of our astronauts returning to the lunar surface. Brett works at the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University - APL is a UARC. In just the past month, priceless samples collected from asteroid Bennu and delivered back to Earth by NASA's OSIRIS-REx probe were being analyzed in HIGP's laboratories, here on the Mānoa campus. These samples will reveal the raw material from

which our solar system, and eventually we ourselves, we made. Key technology for three of the instruments aboard OSIRIS-Rex, which allowed the mission to be so successful, was developed at Utah State University's Space Dynamics Laboratory – SDL is a UARC. UARCs are not the machinery of war.

2. The UH ARL could make a profound contribution to the State economy

The UH ARL is relatively young, and the amount of funding it can be awarded started small, but under Dr Edwards' leadership has grown rapidly. And there is the opportunity for enormous growth in the future, which would generate many highly paid jobs in Hawai'i, and provide many research opportunities for our students. Last year Howard University became the first HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) to be awarded a UARC, with a new \$90M contract. A few months ago the UARC at University of Alaska Fairbanks (established in 2002) was awarded a new \$139M contract to continue its work monitoring for nuclear tests in support of global test-ban treaties. In 2021 Utah State's Space Dynamics Laboratory (UARC established in 1996) was awarded a \$1B five year contract to continue its work. In 2022 the Johns Hopkins APL (UARC established in 1942) was awarded a \$10.6B, ten year contract. In time, UH's ARL could easily have a transformative impact on the State economy, and our desire to diversify and create STEM-related careers.

In summary, the ARL makes strongly positive contributions to the University of Hawai'i, the State of Hawai'i, and the nation as a whole, through the research it conducts. I hope we continue to support it, as being awarded a UARC is very prestigious. And although I have dwelt on non-defense-related research the ARL does, I strongly believe that the University of Hawai'i should not be ashamed, in any way, of the important work we do to keep our service members, many of whom are our friends and neighbors, safe while they perform their duties.

Respectfully,

Robert Wright, Director of the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

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Your Name (required) \*

Cecilia Abella

Your Organization (optional)

Uh manoa student

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

cmabella@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Your Organization (optional)

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

kamakanialbano@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

My name is Donavan Kamakani Albano. I am writing as a māhū Kanaka 'Ōiwi Indigenous Politics graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with genealogical ties to the islands of O'ahu and Maui, to oppose this line item.

Living under illegal military occupation of my native homeland, I recognize the correlating violence of militarism on māhū 'Ōiwi bodies, including the ongoing Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women, Girls, and Māhū crisis. Additionally, the harm that the Applied Research Laboratory poses with the desecration of

sacred 'āina, such as Mauna a Wākea and Haleakalā, and the relationship it has with the University of Hawai'i illuminates the priorities of military research over the voices of the places, peoples, and Indigenous knowledge systems and practices that comes from Hawai'i long before the establishment of this University. I vehemently oppose the renewal of the contract with the Department of Defense, especially with active genocides happening around the world, which U.S. militarism and imperialism directly fuels.

With the University's dedication to become an "Indigenous serving institution" and a Native Hawaiian place of learning, it is important to think about the ways this impacts the efforts of generations of Kānaka Maoli and allied students, faculty, staff, and communities who have and will continue to stand with the 'āina of Hawai'i. Should research that ultimately detrimentally impacts our environment, ecosystems, and connections across the Pacific Ocean that native peoples of the Pacific have been speaking to for years be prioritized over our stories, our genealogical connections to our 'āina, our bodies, our survival? If we say that we view 'āina as a genealogical mother or grandmother who continues to feed us, then what does it mean to renew a contract that only serves to harm her more than protects her? This only serves to further entrench military mismanagement on Hawai'i, as has been historically and contemporarily publicly revealed for decades.

Additionally, I am concerned that the University would consider indemnifying this contract that has not been publicly reviewed. The communities and future generations that this public institution has the responsibility of serving must not be left uninformed or consulted. This makes me wonder where the public has access to information related to this military-funded research. I reiterate my strong opposition to this line item. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Lalita Apaiso

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

lalitaa66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Robert Ashton

Your Organization (optional)

Self

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

rcakalaheo@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha UH Regent Board,

With over three generations of our family raised in Kailua Oahu and two who attended UH Manoa, I provide my strongest approval to continue the ARLUH Manoa as a UARC with its relationship with NAVSEA. Regardless of other facets of DoD issues on island, the UARC is truly an incubator for a myriad of technologies that all benefit from. By attracting funding from DARPA, NAVSEA, ONR and other DoD entities, it strengthens the foundation of research, education and high level developmental science for our islanders,

Ohana and kaamaina alike, who call the islands their home. I have witnessed firsthand local undergraduates working in various roles grow in their personal and professional roles, expanding the on-island experience and engineering professionalism. The on-island engineering capacity also reduces cost to the on-island uniformed service operational forces by not having to go to any off-island institutions for subject matter engineering, development and testing of critically needed modifications or development of operational capabilities. Putting that capability here in the middle of the pacific, not only strengthens the ability to provide agile support to the uniformed services, but continues to build a more comprehensive science and technology capability in the Hawaiian Islands. Simply put, this is a win-win for the University, on island Ohana and the Department of Defense. Please give the issue your strongest support and approval

Mahalo,  
Bob Ashtn

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Paul Baessler

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii

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

paulbaessler@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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

## 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) \*

Lisa Baghdady

Your Organization (optional)

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

lisabaghdady@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am writing as a parent of one of the employees of the Applied Research Laboratory.

My son, Joshua Baghdady, began working as a Communications Engineer at the ARL seven years ago. Over the years, he has shared with me several projects that he and the ARL have been involved with and these are indeed wonderful projects. Please allow me to share two.

The first is one that took place several years ago and involved some new docks which were to be installed in Pearl Harbor. This was a difficult project with a lot of limitations because of the highly guarded location

where the docks were needed and because of the desire to protect sea life in the area, particularly that of the beautiful green sea turtles, the Honus. It was imperative that the docks not disturb them or their routes in the harbor; thus, Joshua and his team undertook efforts to discover exactly where these routes were. In so doing, they were prohibited from utilizing underwater divers, who could have easily tracked the turtles, and had to devise submersible technology to capture images of the Honus and their routes as best as they could. This project took quite some time and skill, but in the end, the routes were discovered, the Honus were left undisturbed, and the proper location for the docks was determined.

The second project I am aware of is the one that involves the people of the Marshall Islands. This is a humanitarian project which is attempting to assist an entire people group as they seek to relocate to neighboring countries due to the ever-rising ocean literally overtaking their island and creating an ever-denser population with limited resources.

These, and no doubt many other projects the ARL undertakes, contribute to the well-being of the beautiful island of Hawai'i and well beyond.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Jonathan Baghdady

Your Organization (optional)

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

jjbagh1218@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

#### Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Board of Regents,  
I worked at the ARL as a high school summer intern and after my experience there I only have good things to say about the lab. I greatly enjoyed working at the ARL this summer because I learned so much about technology, presenting, and collaboration. I could tell by working with the great people at the ARL that they are concerned with the issues that we face in our environment and the world around us and they want to find ways to solve these problems that we face and the challenges that future generations will face in the years to come. One of the projects that the ARL is working on is the hybrid coral reef that is designed for protecting the coastlines. Another project that was in progress while I was there and is still being worked on



is the underwater munitions project. I hope that the ARL can as a University of Hawaii affiliate so that they can continue the great work that is being done there.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Baghdady

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Jeffrey Kawika Barrows

Your Organization (optional)

ARL-UH

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

coach.barrows@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha, please see my attached testimony in support of the continued ARL-UH and NAVSEA/FedGovt contracts.  
Mahalo!

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**JBarrows\_BOR-Testimony.pdf** (60.7 kB)

Aloha, my name is Kawika Barrows, I grew up on Maui in Haiku and I attended Haiku Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Maui High School. My Dad was born and raised in Puunene and Wailuku and he is a Baldwin High Graduate. My grandmother, Jeanette Alo, was a Baldwin High School graduate, class of 1942, and she wrote the lyrics for the Baldwin fight song "Come Rally,". My Great Grandfather, Samuel Alo worked for the Wailuku Sugar company for 27 years and then ran for office and served as the Maui County Auditor for 25 years. We are the Alo Ohana and I have always been very proud of my Hawaiian and Chinese heritage. I grew up like a majority of our local keiki on Maui, very poor, very humble, and full of love and Aloha for the island and our Ohana and ancestry. I too sat on the floor cross-legged in school and listened to the Kupuna who would visit and teach us our Hawaiiana lessons. Singing, Chanting, playing Ukulele, playing with the Ulu Maika, dressing up for May Day (Lei Day) and doing the Tinikling dance with the bamboo sticks. I spent my weekends running around barefoot through the "pineapps" as we called it (pineapple fields) and as a teen I worked for my family's roofing company, carrying heavy bundles of shingles manually up the ladder to load roofs all over the island.

Back in my youth we looked up to the folks who would get a good job at the hotels because they could speak Japanese and other foreign languages. For many of us, our outlook on future life was either working for a family business (if we were fortunate to be part of a family that had one) or to go work at a hotel or for Maui Pine or the Sugar company. For those that really excelled in school, they received scholarships to the military academies and other colleges, and they would go off to school, further their educations, and then rarely return home due to the lack of opportunities in Hawaii beyond tourism or agriculture. Those that did return to be with their Ohana often would take any jobs available to them and were often over-qualified for the work that was available, but they worked hard and made do.

I was not a good student in High School. I cared more about Boogie Boarding Baldwin beach or Makena beach or diving and spearing fish or taco. I cared more about playing basketball after school at Maui High in slippers on the outdoor concrete/asphalt courts than I cared about doing my homework and studying. I was convinced my future outlook and opportunities were going to be hard physical labor for agriculture or working for the family roofing company (Tops Roofing in Wailuku which is still there and operating today). I figured, why try hard in school if my future was already limited in the opportunities I had in Hawaii. Back then I could not have imagined beyond my wildest dreams what I would be doing today.

Today I work for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) and we support the ARL-UH efforts at the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC). After High School which I barely graduated, I moved to Idaho and joined the Air National Guard and got the GI Bill so I could go to Boise State. I didn't have the grades for scholarships and I had to work, take out student loans, and serve in the military (which I loved and am grateful for). I graduated from Boise State which was a huge feat for a poor barefoot Haiku kid that only passed high school by the seat of my pants.

I served for 22 years in the military and retired and always held to the dream that one day I would return home to Maui and be among my Ohana that still lives in Wailuku, Kula, and Waiehu Heights area just to list a few. We still have extensive family on Oahu too in Laie and all over the state as well. I am very much a part of the fabric of Hawaii and vice versa, Hawaii is very much a part of me

and forever will be. My whole identity in life has been about my Hawaiian connection and who it made me as a person today for which I am very grateful and very proud.

I serve today as a Program Manager directing advanced research and technology projects involving Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, High Performance Computing, Model Based Systems Engineering, programming, and cybersecurity. These very words are things that I never believed I would even understand when I was a young kid on Maui.

I share all of this background information to make a point. That point is that the RCUH efforts with ARL-UH at the Kihei MHPCC site, is a HUGE opportunity for Maui and all of Hawaii, for those who are jaded by the loss of Agricultural Opportunities, the loss of jobs, the loss of Lahaina and the added squeeze that has had on the labor force due to lost businesses and homes. We are hurting in Hawaii for a diversification of our economy and the opportunities for our children to have a bright future beyond just working for the Hotel and Tourism industry. We lose more and more land each day to outside investors and developers, and we can barely even get access to the beaches we all ran around on as kids in Hawaii. Don't even get me started on the shore fishing or diving to put food on the table as that has been all but diminished and commercialized as well. For those who still live in Hawaii, the opportunity to make a livable and respectable wage which is needed to feed their families and provide for their children and their education, is more and more of a struggle each month. The median home price on Maui has now reached 1.3 million dollars and keeps going up. A gallon of milk at Safeway is \$9.99. Locals have to compete with the tourists for goods and services on Maui as we struggle each day, the visitors bring with them their planned vacation expenses and money and it is a simple matter of supply and demand that keeps so many things out of reach for our hardest working Ohana in Hawaii.

We no longer have the agriculture that we once had. Those jobs are all but forever gone. We no longer can afford the already high prices of living in Hawaii and competing with the entire world for groceries at the store. We truly have to compete with the whole world! Visitors to Hawaii come not only from the mainland but also from Europe and Asia and thus we are competing with the top 2-Percent of the world's most wealthy who are there to visit or invest. How can we compete in a global market for goods and services and land when we are so dependent on the low paying jobs that are provided by the Tourism Industry? By the way, who owns the hotels that locals work at? Are those Hawaiian companies? Marriott, Hilton, etc. etc.? No! Those companies are owned by outside, non-Hawaiian entities. We keep making them wealthier while we take less and less.

Technology can be the great equalizer in this environment. The opportunities at ARL-UH working with High Performance Computing and all of the other research and development opportunities there provides tremendous opportunity for the locals who are working there today. I am very proud to say that many of those folks that I work with are Maui High Grads (Go Sabers!) and also grads from all over Hawaii and of course from the University of Hawaii. We have had locals kids as interns that have worked with us and some of them have a great experience due to the wonderful team that leads those interns, which in turn leads to them applying for jobs with ARL-UH and staying home in Hawaii to work, instead of moving away to the mainland or elsewhere that those types of jobs are in more abundance.

Those who speak out against the continued ARL-UH involvement with the MHPCC may not realize this, but you are literally advocating against your very own neighbors, local island folks with deep

roots in Hawaii who take great pride in their work and show to the world every day that Hawaii is here! Our RCUH employees are extremely intelligent and capable and can compete globally when it comes to technological knowledge and skills. They represent every single day! Those who would rather pat themselves on the back for trying to run the ARL-UH MHPCC operation out of town don't even know that you are advocating against these hard-working local employees and their families, and you are advocating for the loss of their careers and means to provide for their Ohana. You don't realize it, but you will drive them from their own homes to have to seek employment elsewhere where these technological opportunities exist and are more abundant.

I would invite any of the nay-sayers who obviously have not researched the subject well enough and are lacking in their knowledge of what really happens with ARL-UH, I invite you to come and see for yourself the people who work here, their families and island roots, their hard work and passion for what they do, and the pride they have in representing Hawaii to the world every single day. Shame on you for jumping on a feel-good bandwagon and not fully understanding the entire complexity and interconnection to your very own culture and local families and how the loss of these opportunities would only further erode the local opportunities for our younger generation of Hawaii families. More would continue to move away from Hawaii, and we will continue to lose our culture and identity as our keiki go in search of a better economic opportunity elsewhere. Look at California and the mass exodus away from there as people can no longer afford to live there anymore and those who stay give way to higher and higher taxes as they rely on the government to bail them out. Let's instead do what our Hawaiian ancestors did and stay and fight to grow our technology opportunities in Hawaii where we can compete with the best of the best in the world and we can create for our keiki a brighter outlook for their future opportunities and keep them home working in Hawaii and being with their Ohana.

Come see for yourself and open your eyes and ears and learn and understand what you are so passionately advocating against. Be humble and strive to gain a full understanding of that you are advocating against which is really just your own neighbors and our culture and future of Hawaii. Come see, come learn, come discuss. Dare I say, join us, help us grow, help us create more and more opportunity for our future, for good technology jobs, for an honest way of making a living to provide for our families. Help us keep our youngest and brightest minds at home to help us claw back more and more of what we have lost in the past. We need this opportunity, and we need to diversify our economy to include technology which will truly help us compete with the entire world for jobs. I believe we have the brightest minds amongst us in Hawaii and we need to keep that here and keep it local. Thank you for supporting the continued association of ARL-UH and the MHPCC and the High-Performance Computing and other associated projects of ARL-UH.

Mahalo and Aloha

Kawika Barrows

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 have been granted the means to which I can pursue my master's in mechanical engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Where through my efforts, I am able to 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 recent wildfire in Lahaina and where water security has affected communities surrounding Red Hill.

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.

Mahalo,  
Sean Blanks

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Suthasinee Bootlop

Your Organization (optional)

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

suthasineeb66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Joseph J. Brown

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

jjbrown@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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

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## Agenda Item VII B

1 message

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Cheryl B <burgharc@gmail.com>  
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 5:36 PM

Aloha BOR, UH members,

We are writing this email in regards to Agenda Item VII B. We say **NO** to the renewal of a contract between the Department of Defense (DOD) and the University of Hawai'i (UH)! (the request of approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i,)

My **NO** is stated to prevent additional funding from the DOD to produce research for military purposes. We understand that the "ARL contract is worth hundreds of millions and will specifically go toward research for military purposes. It supports the UH Institute for Astronomy (IFA) in conducting operations and management on Mauna Kea and Haleakalā "and encourages military training and initiatives that exploit and perpetuate war around the world. As we have many times over the past years at meetings and in testimony, We continue to state to the BOR that these initiatives have only continued to desecrate our sacred Mauna and millennia of indigenous knowledge systems. Enough is enough.

Over the past years, hundreds have stood at the BOR podium and shared their heartfelt, researched, culturally Hawai'i-place-based concerns about UH's involvement in these contracts only to have these concerns ignored or dismissed by the BOR. The university seems to have forgotten the community, the students in its quest for the \$\$\$\$. "This contract undermines the university's dedication to education and a Native Hawaiian place of Learning and places military interests above the needs of students, faculty, community, and 'āina. Effectively, the renewal of these contracts with the DOD has transformed the UH institution into an extension of the American war machine." Enough is enough

It is time that UH divested from all contracts, actions, funding from the DOD to produce research for the military. UH has been complicit too many times in the US war machine (example: agent orange). For too long, UH and other entities have only looked at the \$\$ and not the impact on our UH community and islands. Enough is enough.

We again, state that by saying **NO** to the request of approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i," we can powerfully defend Hawai'i's collegiate system and overall, *DIVEST* from global U.S.-led and complicit wars and genocides. Enough is enough

This email is our testimony and we ask that the BOR vote **NO** to the request and seriously look at all other similar requests with a lens of what is right for our community.

C. Burghardt  
D. Green  
Community members  
Kia`i Mauna

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Your Name (required) \*

Thanaphat Chichu

Your Organization (optional)

Natesuan University

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

thanaphatc66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Naphat chindaprathum

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan university

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

naphatch66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Name (required) \*

Gloria Choo

Your Organization (optional)

National Security Innovation Network

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

gchoo.ctr@nsin.mil

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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](mailto: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

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Your Name (required) \*

Garett Costa

Your Organization (optional)

UH Graduate Student

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

gccosta@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I support the efforts of the Applied Research Laboratory in advancing cutting-edge research and innovation. Their commitment to solving complex scientific and engineering challenges not only fosters technological progress but also contributes significantly to improving national security, defense systems, and broader societal outcomes. By integrating academic expertise with real-world applications, the Applied Research Laboratory plays a pivotal role in driving solutions that address critical needs in both government and



industry sectors. I believe their work will continue to make a lasting impact across multiple fields, benefiting future generations of Native Hawaiians.

[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) \*

Pachara Dantanin

Your Organization (optional)

Nareasuan University

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

pacharad66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

William Dick

Your Organization (optional)

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

Musipro@aol.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Margo Edwards

Your Organization (optional)

Applied Reasearch Lab at UH

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

margo@arl.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Chairman Lee and members of the Board of Regents:

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Jenny Engels

Your Organization (optional)

Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

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

jenniferleahengels@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my strong appreciation for the work and contributions of the 150+ employees and associated faculty of the University of Hawai'i (UH) Applied Research Lab (ARL), and the dozens of local Hawai'i students whom they have mentored and supported since 2008. I recognize the moral complexity of supporting a Department of Defense (DoD)-affiliated presence in our institution that is working towards

becoming a truly Native Hawaiian Place of Learning. At the same time, as a career educator and 20-year employee of UH Mānoa (UHM) and RCUH, it is clear to me that the ARL's work today has direct benefits for our students, community, and state, as well as ecosystems worldwide.

Since 2016 I have served as an internship coordinator and gender equity researcher in the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, Sea Grant, and a National Science Foundation-funded equity grant at UHM. During that time I have personally mentored more than 130 undergraduate and graduate students, and have surveyed several hundred faculty and staff at UHM from across STEM and non-STEM disciplines. It is hard for Hawai'i students, particularly those with diverse backgrounds, to secure good jobs that support them to stay in our state. Students and community members who might otherwise become part of the Hawaiian Diaspora are working at the ARL today, and contributing to the safety and well-being of our island home. ARL Director Dr. Margo Edwards is a trusted colleague and equity advocate who is pro-actively making the ARL an inclusive, welcoming, and supportive place to work.

Voluminous testimony by residents from across the islands speaks to the important role the ARL plays in ecological, economic, and human support networks within Hawai'i and beyond. Coral reef restoration to prevent hurricane damage, rapid responses to tragedies in Lahaina and our hospitals' COVID wards, and creating sustainable clean water technologies for vulnerable communities are all activities that transform lives in our state in meaningful and positive ways. As the 2021 recipient of the Dr. Amefil "Amy" Agbayani Faculty Diversity Enhancement Award from the UHM Commission on Inclusion and Diversity, I could not write this support letter in good conscience if I did not believe that benefits of the ARL's work in Hawai'i offset any potential negatives associated with their DoD funding source.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony,

Jenny Engels

[ADVANCE Catalyst](#) Project Manager

[Women in SOEST](#) Co-Founder

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

[jenniferleahengels@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferleahengels@gmail.com)

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Nina Epton

Your Organization (optional)

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

nina.epton@hotmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Luke Flynn

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory and Hawaii Space Grant Consortium

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

lflynn@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

To the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,

I am the Director of the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (since its inception in 2007) and the Hawaii Space Grant Consortium (since 2002). I have either attended or worked at the University of Hawaii for 38 years. I fully support the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) in its research endeavors that include developing high tech projects and providing hands-on educational opportunities for Hawaii's high tech workforce. The Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory has received ARL support for its Neutron-1 small satellite that operated for

over 200 days in space. Without ARL electrical engineering support, Neutron-1 would not have had a viable communications system. HSFL has also worked with ARL on very high altitude unmanned solar planes that can be used for disaster monitoring, emergency communications, and internet connectivity to rural areas of Hawaii. The research that ARL performs frequently has dual-purpose applications that benefit all of us. In summary, I would recommend that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents approve and authorize the University to accept indemnity provisions in the Master Service Agreement for PTS-3 Professional Service with STARR II.

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

**Flynn\_ARLSupport\_091624.pdf** (447.1 kB)



## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA

**Dr. Luke Flynn**  
Director  
Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory  
1680 East-West Road, POST 501D  
Honolulu, HI 96822

September 16, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

RE: Letter of Support for the Applied Research Laboratory

I am the Director for the Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL) and the Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium. I graduated with a PhD in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Hawai'i and have lived in Hawai'i for 38 years. HSFL is a multidisciplinary research and education center that brings together individuals from diverse areas to work on the exploration and understanding of the space environment. HSFL enables the University of Hawai'i to design, build, launch, and operate microsatellites in the 1-150 kg range that can be configured for a variety of science and educational tasks. I fully support the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) in its research endeavors that include developing high tech projects and providing hands-on educational opportunities for Hawai'i's workforce. HSFL received ARL support for its Neutron-1 small satellite that operated for over 200 days in low-Earth orbit. Without ARL electrical engineering support, Neutron-1 would not have had a viable communications system. HSFL has also worked with the ARL on ground support for very high altitude unmanned solar planes that can be used for disaster monitoring, emergency communications, and internet connectivity to rural areas of Hawai'i. The research that ARL performs has dual-purpose applications that benefit all of us.

In summary, I would recommend that the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approve and authorize the University to accept the indemnity provisions in the Master Service Agreement for PTS-3 Professional Service in STARR II.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luke Flynn", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Luke Flynn  
Director, Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory  
Director, Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium

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Your Name (required) \*

Jirat Fongda

Your Organization (optional)

NU

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

jiratf66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

mert gokdepe

Your Organization (optional)

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

mgokdepe@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am Mert, a Coastal/Ocean Engineer at the University of Hawaii's Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), contributing to the Rapid Resilient Reefs for Coastal Defense (R3D) project since September 2022. Under the excellent leadership of Dr. Benjamin Jones, we've been working on enhancing coastal resilience, protecting ecosystems, and advancing Hawaii's capabilities in ocean research which turned into provisional patent applications. I feel privileged to be a part of this vital work. The proposed 10-year NAVSEA contract will

ensure that UH remains at the forefront of innovation, benefiting defense, local communities, and the broader scientific field.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Kathy Hafner

Your Organization (optional)

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

khafner@iolani.org

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I strongly support ARL and its contributions to the community.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



No file attached

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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) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

ARL--UH\_BoR-TestimonyShort-Sep19.pdf (34.5 kB)

Noah Hafner  
nhafner@hawaii.edu

September 19th, 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) \*

Pongsathon Hengsuwan

Your Organization (optional)

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

pongsathonhe66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

"I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future."

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Corrisa Heyes

Your Organization (optional)

UH Manoa, Mechanical Engineering Dept.

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

crhey@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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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) \*

Lloyd Hihara

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

hihara@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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



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Your Name (required) \*

Zhenhua Huang

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at manoa

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

zhenhua@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

I strongly support ARL's contract renewal. I am a Professor at UH Manoa and Chair of Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering (ORE). ARL's research activities support UH Manoa's "the Strategic Plan's Vision and Values", which is "solving problems of vital importance to the State citizens, e.g., in the marine sciences, agriculture, energy and water resources, climate change, and medicine." ARL has been actively doing research on marine renewable energy and nature-based solutions (e.g., living coastal-protection system) to coastal hazard problems. ARL's projects have provided opportunities for American students to learn essential knowledge and skills so that they can find good jobs in the State and the mainland. In my research

group alone, five (5) graduate students and two (2) undergraduate students have been or are being supported by ARL projects in the past 3 years. These students have published scientific papers in peer reviewed journals, produced Plan A research theses published at ProQuest site, learned essential knowledge and skills which secured them jobs in Hawaii (e.g., Sea Engineering and Consor Engineering). One undergraduate student in my group who worked on one ARL project was inspired by marine renewable energy research and decided to enroll in a UH's master's program continuing her study on marine renewable energy at UH Manoa. Most of ORE's graduates supported by ARL projects found jobs in Hawaii.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

nattapong intararujikul

Your Organization (optional)

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

nattapongi66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

wirosana kaewkulwong

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

wirosanak@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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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***\*\*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) \*

Shayla Kaheaku

Your Organization (optional)

UHM undergraduate research

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

skaheaku@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I support the indemnification of the federal government and NAVSEA for the proposed contract with the Advanced Research Laboratory (ARL) because it creates life-changing opportunities for students like me. As a Native Hawaiian mechanical engineering student, gaining hands-on experience in cutting-edge research is incredibly valuable for my education and future career. ARL has already provided funding and graduate school support to one of my mentors, showing just how much they invest in students' growth. This

partnership allows students to tackle real-world challenges, while also helping us develop both academically and professionally. I hope ARL can continue offering these opportunities to future generations.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Poowarin Kardkam

Your Organization (optional)

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

poowarink66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Name (required) \*

Kongphop keattisin

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

Kongpopkeattisin@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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Your Name (required) \*

Suwimon Khaengkasikit

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

suwimonk66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Name (required) \*

supsaraporn Khancharee

Your Organization (optional)

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

supsarapornc66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

Sutharot Kiangkaew

Your Organization (optional)

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

sutharotk66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

Nachapong Klinrod

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

nachapongk66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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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) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Knobbe Letter to UH Regents\_support of ARL\_20240916.pdf (278.5 kB)



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

16 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, nearly all 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 are 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

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Your Name (required) \*

KRITSANA KUMPHET

Your Organization (optional)

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

kritsanaku64@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Panuwat lapromma

Your Organization (optional)

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

panuwatr66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

"I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future."

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Russell Laudone

Your Organization (optional)

UH Master Student

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

Laudoner@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

**I am writing to express my support for the mission of the Applied Research Lab (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.**

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 outlined 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) \*

Praewa Makruangsri

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan university

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

praewam66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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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) \*

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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.

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

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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) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

#### Your Testimony/Comments

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) \*

Wansuree Massagram

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

wansureem@nu.ac.th

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Your Position (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

Kittikorn meakuadee

Your Organization (optional)

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

Kittikornm66@nu.ac.th

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Your Name (required) \*

Natawat Meedet

Your Organization (optional)

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

natawam66@nu.ac.th

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Your Name (required) \*

Makenzie Michel

Your Organization (optional)

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

Makenzie.michel16@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

Dr. Suketu Naik

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Pacific University

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

snaik@hpu.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dr. Suketu Naik  
Associate Professor and Program Chair of Engineering  
Hawaii Pacific University (HPU)  
9/16/24

Letter of Support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Applied Research Lab (ARL) and its invaluable contributions to the academic, research, and development communities in Hawai'i. As a faculty member at HPU, I have had the privilege of working with ARL through a partnership that has greatly benefited my students in the ENGR 1500: Design Project Experience 1 course. During our collaboration on the MiniSonde project, ARL engineers worked side by side with my students, providing hands-on experience in soldering, assembling, and troubleshooting complex parts. This practical engagement not only enhanced the students' technical skills but also offered them a unique opportunity to learn from industry professionals, an experience that is critical to their future careers in engineering.

Beyond its educational impact, ARL has played a pivotal role in advancing research and innovation across multiple fields. Recent highlights include ARL's leadership in establishing a testing range for technologies aimed at detecting and neutralizing sea-disposed munitions, including chemical and high explosives, following WWII. This initiative is particularly important for safeguarding the marine environment around the Hawaiian Islands and other affected areas. In partnership with the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) and the Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering (ORE), ARL is developing climate adaptation technologies, including the first hybrid coral-reef system engineered to protect coastlines. This forward-thinking work not only addresses immediate environmental concerns but also contributes to long-term sustainability in the region. ARL's recent establishment of an advanced manufacturing center in collaboration with the Institute for Astronomy (IfA) is another example of its commitment to both research and workforce development. By supporting rapid prototyping and creating local jobs in a growing industry, ARL is playing a crucial role in shaping the future of manufacturing in Hawai'i. Furthermore, ARL's expanding cybersecurity research on Maui is vital in protecting our nation's critical networks, ensuring the safety and integrity of our digital infrastructure.

As a note, ARL-administered research efforts have supported 11 UH faculty, 32 graduate students, 32 undergraduates, and 18 high school summer interns, providing invaluable learning opportunities for the next generation of scientists and engineers. ARL has brought in over \$230M in research and operations dollars to the state of Hawai'i since 2008, with a pending contract valued at \$290M over the next 10 years.

In conclusion, ARL has proven to be an essential partner in advancing research, education, and technological innovation in Hawai'i. I am confident that their continued efforts will lead to even greater successes in the years to come, and I wholeheartedly support their work.

Sincerely,  
Suketu Naik.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Matthew Nakamura

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Dept. Mechanical Engineering

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

mtdsn@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

MNakamura\_ARLsupportLetter\_20240919.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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***\*\*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) \*

Natthawadee

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

natthawadeec66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Cynthia Nguyen

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Student)

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

cnguy20@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Pisit Noojai

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

pisit5381@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.B. Appointment of Interim Director of Internal Audit

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future. Thank you.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Miguel Nunes

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory

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

miguel.nunes@hsfl.hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

**To the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents**

**Letter of Support for the Applied Research Laboratory**

**As the Deputy Director of the Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I strongly support the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) in its research and development capabilities for**

the state of Hawai'i.

The ARL plays a unique and crucial role in advancing research and development in Hawai'i. Its high-tech projects not only benefit UH students but also make a significant positive impact at both the University of Hawai'i and the state level. I'm an O'ahu resident, and I fully support diversifying our local economy, increasing the number of high-paying jobs in our community, and increasing support of high-tech programs in Hawai'i. The ARL is focused on improving the lives of the citizens Hawai'i through ocean environment research and high-tech projects, which are fundamental to the state's economic progress.

I have personally mentored students raised in Hawai'i who now work at the ARL. Without the ARL, they would have to move to the mainland to find jobs in areas that do not directly benefit Hawai'i and their families. Many of these students I mentor tell me they would like to work at 'home', in Hawai'i, or at least come back soon and start a family here while working on their 'dream job'. If we incentivize labs like the ARL, state government, academic research, and the private sector in Hawai'i, we can put Hawai'i on the map in terms of high tech development given the tremendous human potential that exists in Hawai'i. Yet if there isn't support for this effort, we will lose the the very people who are helping to build the future of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time,  
Miguel Nunes

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Kailer Okura

Your Organization (optional)

UH Student

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

kailermo@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I support the ARL and its mission as it provides opportunities for students

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Mary Michelle Pearce

Your Organization (optional)

Maui Total Visual

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

pearcemarym@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

This is my testimony in support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), based on three core values that, in my opinion, define its leadership and priorities: community, transparency, and innovation.

First, the ARL's commitment to community is evident in its leadership and workplace culture. One of my earliest projects was developing an internship program for Hawaii high school and college students. In the summer of 2019, ARL hired 12 local students, giving them hands-on experience in cybersecurity, field operations, and communications. This program continues, a legacy I am proud to have established.

Next is transparency. In March 2020, Dr. Edwards and Dr. Jones held a meeting to fully address the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and its potential impact on our team. They presented a publicly available map of the virus's spread and, through their foresight, helped us navigate the challenges of 2020 with a clear plan and support. Their eagerness to provide transparent messaging despite the unforeseen challenges ensured a smooth transition for all of us into the "new normal," while prioritizing the safety of the employees. Looking back, I can't help but wonder—wouldn't the entire country benefit from leadership that listens to experts and acts on warnings rather than ignoring them? What might our country look like if its leaders embraced similar values of transparency and foresight?

Finally, ARL's emphasis on innovation has allowed it to tackle projects in ways that other, more established DoD partners might not consider. A great example of this was the 2020 Global Maritime Forum, which I had the privilege of managing. Despite the pandemic, we pivoted to an online format, which opened up broader engagement with the DoD, University of Hawaii researchers, students, and both international and local partners. While it's not uncommon for someone with my background to organize such events, I rarely get to witness the discussions firsthand. However, because the forum was virtual and I was responsible for moderating both the speaker and audience discussions, I was a part of the conversations about climate change and autonomous maritime technologies. This experience truly underscored ARL's commitment to innovation, showing that even in challenging times, the leadership at ARL is dedicated to exploring new solutions within their projects.

Although my background in Hawaii's filmmaking industry may seem unrelated, the culture and history of Hawaii strongly influence my professional and creative work. My time at ARL left a lasting impression. As a creative professional, I often feel perceived as an outlier in DoD spaces, but I take immense pride in the work ARL has accomplished under Dr. Edwards and Dr. Jones, and in the trust they placed in my efforts.

To any community member with concerns, I encourage you to ask: How would our nation and local communities benefit from leadership that prioritizes community, transparency, and innovation, as ARL's leadership does?

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

**PearceARLSupportTestimony.pdf** (29.6 kB)



Mary Michelle Pearce  
September 16, 2024

This is my testimony in support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), based on three core values that, in my opinion, define its leadership and priorities: community, transparency, and innovation.

First, the ARL's commitment to community is evident in its leadership and workplace culture. One of my earliest projects was developing an internship program for Hawaii high school and college students. In the summer of 2019, ARL hired 12 local students, giving them hands-on experience in cybersecurity, field operations, and communications. This program continues, a legacy I am proud to have established.

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Your Name (required) \*

Willard Peralta Jr

Your Organization (optional)

ARL UH Maui

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

willard.peralta@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 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 IT and programming 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) \*

Kirsten Peterson

Your Organization (optional)

UHM Undergraduate

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

kp779@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

After hearing about the opportunities that the Applied Research Lab has to offer to students I support the continued existence and mission of ARL.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Phatchararitthinan

Your Organization (optional)

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

Phatchararitthinant66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Phongsatorn

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan university

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

phongsatornh66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Ethan Rocheville

Your Organization (optional)

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

ethanjr@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am undergraduate student in support of ARL because provide key learning opportunities in field in Hawaii for students like me.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Nattawut Rojboonthueng

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

nattawutr66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

kanghun saegaroon

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

kanghuns66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Kitsakon Sangthong

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

kitsakons66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

SUJITTRA SARAOKON

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) \*

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Steve Shulman

Your Organization (optional)

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

shulman.steve36@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I strongly support the ARL.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Tanawich Singpae

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan Univercity

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

tanawichs66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Name (required) \*

Kidsada Sophonphokhai

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan university

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

kidsadaso66@nu.ac.th

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Your Name (required) \*

Johnny Stafford

Your Organization (optional)

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

johnnys66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

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) \*

Tapanawat Sunanta

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

tapanawats66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Treerak Taidecha

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

treerakt64@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Tanakrit

Your Organization (optional)

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

tanakritj66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Krittin Thamjaroenkul

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

krittint66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Tanatron Thinnuch

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

tanatront66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Panjarat Thongtup

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

panjaratt66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

SCOTT 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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Esteemed 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 (UARC)s 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 them 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.

Scott Thorpe

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Kunlanid Tiwongsa

Your Organization (optional)

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

kunlanidt66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Naruemon Udomphon

Your Organization (optional)

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

naruemonu66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Jacquelyn Veatch

Your Organization (optional)

Rutgers University

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

jveatch@marine.rutgers.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawai'i and to highlight its critical contributions to both the local community and national security. As a peer in the research community, I have had the privilege of witnessing the expansive capabilities and impactful work of this laboratory. Despite its relatively short existence, ARL has made significant contributions in areas such as

resilient reefs and environmental initiatives, wave energy and renewable technologies, cybersecurity, near-earth observations, and munitions detection.

As an oceanographer, I am particularly impressed by ARL's innovative work in advancing resilient reef systems. Coral reefs, which serve as rich centers of marine biodiversity and natural coastal defense systems, are increasingly threatened by ocean warming and acidification. The interdisciplinary team of scientists and engineers at ARL has approached this challenge with creativity and expertise, developing living coastal protection systems inspired by coral reefs. This innovation is a testament to the lab's unique blend of talent—distinct from a typical academic setting—enabled by its status as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC).

The important work conducted by ARL is pushing scientific research forward in many critical areas, and its role is vital for continuing excellence in research that supports both local and national security.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn Veatch, PhD

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Duke Vierra

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

vierrad2@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

My friends are students supported by ARL and the technical development they've received from these projects have been beneficial for them and the University.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

pakornsak wannapop

Your Organization (optional)

naresuan university

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

pakornsakw63@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Brian Williams

Your Organization (optional)

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

bpwill1108@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR,

I am writing to express my support for the mission and initiatives of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii. The ARL plays a crucial 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. These ARL projects are helping to create, to develop, and to retain Hawaii's workforce in

technical jobs in Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island. A strong technical job sector helps bolster Hawaii's economy and future.

I have been living and working in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for 13 years as member of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii and recently became part of ARL. My team's focus has been remote 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 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.

I strongly believe that continued support for the ARL's mission is essential for the ongoing safety and prosperity of Hawaii.

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,

Brian Williams

16 September 2024

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

No file attached



## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Van Wishingrad

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

vanw@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

**Board of Regents**

University of Hawai'i  
2444 Dole Street  
Bachman Hall 209  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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 Biology 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 is 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 waters 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Cyrus Won

Your Organization (optional)

retired

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

clydewon@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Allison Wong

Your Organization (optional)

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

akwong7@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Board of Regents,

My name is Allison Wong, a former undergraduate student who worked closely with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) for three years during my time at the university. I am writing to express my **strong support** for the renewal of ARL at the University of Hawaii.

During my time with ARL, there was **no** involvement in the development of military weapons or research that could cause harm or loss of life. Instead, ARL played a crucial role in supporting maritime research and

advancing technologies uniquely suited to Hawaii's environment. ARL was one of the few organizations that provided me the opportunity to explore maritime research through their internship program in 2014. Through this internship, I gained valuable technical skills that were essential to my success in the engineering field, which ultimately led to a career in maritime robotics with a local company here in Hawaii, where I continue to contribute to the advancement of maritime research.

There are very few entities dedicated to maritime research, and losing ARL would be a significant loss for locals like me who want to pursue careers in the maritime robotics field.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Areerat Worawongwasu

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

aree@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

I am Aree Worawongwasu, a PhD student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing to SAY NO to Agenda Item VII C. "Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i."

The covert agreements and contracts between the Department of Defense and the University of Hawai'i (UH) involve staff, faculty, and students in the U.S. military's ongoing war agenda. This agenda endangers the planet's future and supports the genocide of Palestinians as well as other Indigenous peoples globally.

I join ASUH in demanding that the BOR:

- Postpone the decision to indemnify the UARC contract until the contract is publicly available, and the public and Regents have had time to review and provide informed feedback.
- Terminate the UARC contract for its undermining of UH's mission, and prevent further entanglement with the U.S. military.

Demilitarize Hawai'i. He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.

Me ke aloha,  
Aree Worawongwasu.

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

No file attached

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**Written testimony from Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright on Agenda item C of the September 19 BOR meeting: the Indemnification of \$145 million CLASSIFIED UARC program**

1 message

---

**ann Wright** <annw1946@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 4:49 PM

September 16, 2024

University of Hawai'i  
Board of Regents  
24444 Dole Street, Bachman 209  
Honolulu, HI 98622

Aloha UH Board of Regents,

I am providing written testimony for the September 19, 2024, Board of Regents meeting. This testimony pertains to Agenda item C. "Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i."

The request for the University of Hawai'i to indemnify the U.S. federal government is for a CLASSIFIED Contract for \$145 million for the first five years and an increase to \$290 million if the contract is extended for an additional five years.

I served 29 years in the U.S. Army/Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel. I was also a U.S. diplomat for 16 years and served in U.S. embassies in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. I resigned from the U.S. government in March 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq.

As the public, and I as a retired U.S. Army Colonel and a former diplomat, have maintained since the controversial beginning of the Applied Research Laboratory over sixteen years ago, that to have a classified military project that requires secrecy of the title, much less a description of the project, is against the role of a public university dedicated to transparency to the public that funds it and its students who attend to further their education.

The fact that professors and students that work on the project are forbidden by the terms of the contract to discuss what the project is about is not in the public interest, nor the interest of the university, nor its professors and students. It is only in the interest of the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense has its own internal laboratories that conduct military related research that they should use for whatever research they want to do.

I strongly believe that our civilian university of the State of Hawai'i should NOT be a part of the U.S. military-industrial complex through the Applied Research Laboratory network.

While the economy of our state is heavily influenced by the massive U.S. military presence in Hawai'i, to have our university being complicit in the development of the war machine of the U.S. is unhealthy for the institution as it brings into the question the role of the university.



Is our state university an arm of the U.S. military bureaucracy or is it an independent, transparent institution of higher learning divorced from the political war-making decisions of the federal government?

As a retired U.S. Army officer and former U.S. diplomat, I fervently hope it is the latter and we reject the military involvement in our university.

I ask the Board of Regents to refuse the indemnification request and finally terminate the Applied Research Laboratory program at the University of Hawai'i.

Ann Wright  
U.S. Army Colonel (retired)

[2333 Kapiolani Blvd](#)  
[Honolulu, HI 96826](#)

As this will become a public document, my phone number will be made available to the Board of Regents upon request, if you wish to contact me for further information.

--

Ann Wright  
Dissent: Voices of Conscience  
[www.voicesofconscience.com](http://www.voicesofconscience.com)

## 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) \*

Tysen Yahiku

Your Organization (optional)

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

yahikut@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am an undergraduate student in support of ARL because of the learning opportunities they provide for students like me.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Panpaporn Yodasanit

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

Panpaporny66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific. Please support ARL now and for the future.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

yodsakoron

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

yodsakornj66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Thirawat Yoosuk

Your Organization (optional)

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

Thirawaty66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

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Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Tyler Yoshiyama

Your Organization (optional)

ISLA (HIGP, SOEST, UH Manoa), ARL

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

ttyoshi4@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear President Lassner and BOR

I am writing to express my staunch 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 lived in Hawaii my entire life, and love living here. As a Computer Scientist who graduated from University of Hawaii, Hilo in 2010, I saw many classmates leave the islands to find work. I am lucky, grateful, and honored to be working for the University under ISLA and now ARL. I was recently hired by ARL to support its Kona office.

I believe a very commendable aspect of the ARL's work is 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 Hawaii since its inception, most of which has gone to job creation and sustainment.

ARL helps build tech and tools that allow us to remain vigilant and able to respond appropriately to risks and hazards. This is key to the defense of our nation.

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.

Tyler Yoshiyama  
Data Systems Specialist  
Infrasound Laboratory, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Napattapong Yuwannasiri

Your Organization (optional)

Naresuan University

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

napattapongy66@nu.ac.th

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

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Your Testimony/Comments

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Paulo Dias

Your Organization (optional)

UPORTO-FEUP-LSTS

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

pdias@lsts.pt

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I worked many times with ARL and they are doing a valuable work with the money they received. Pushing robotics, autonomy and such related work, can benefit the society as an all. With the right use and transposition to the civilian use its a valid work within the UH.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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## Testimony in opposition to UARC

1 message

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**Sylvia Dolena** <sylviadolena@gmail.com>  
To: Bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 12:01 PM

Aloha,

**Strong Opposition Builds as UH Regents Consider Indemnification for Military Research Contracts  
Decades of Student, Faculty, and Community Resistance Resurface as Concerns Over Transparency and  
Cultural Impact Grow**

Honolulu, Hawai'i – As the University of Hawaii Board of Regents prepares to vote on a NAVSEA indemnification proposal tied to the University Affiliated Research Center (UARC), a powerful coalition of students, faculty, and community leaders is once again raising strong objections. The proposal, which would legally protect the federal government from liabilities linked to Navy-sponsored research, has reignited decades-long concerns regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution.

Leading the charge is the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii (ASUH), joined by community groups and faculty members who have historically opposed UARC since its establishment in 2008. These groups argue that indemnification will deepen the university's entanglement with classified military research, a move that we believe is incompatible with the university's mission and values.

**WE demand that the BOR:**

- **Postpone the decision to indemnify the UARC contract until the contract is publicly available, and the public and Regents have had time to review and provide informed feedback.**
- **Terminate the UARC contract for its undermining of UH's mission, and prevent further entanglement with the U.S. military.**

### **Sylvia Dolena**

Owner, Pele Lani Farm LLC  
Owner, Winning Edge Women's Leadership  
Director, Puna Rising Entrepreneur Hub  
Co-founder, Aloha Animal Advocates, HI Domestic non-profit  
Director, Malama O'Puna. 501c3  
President, Aloha Lokahi Association, 501c3  
President, Kulia I Ka Nu'u Outreach Services  
Vice President, Love Those Dog Paws, 501c3  
Executive Coach, Hewlett-Packard Enterprises

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Your Name (required) \*

John Dunlap

Your Organization (optional)

UH Marine Center/KAUNANA

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

jmdunlap@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

As an RCUH employee who works at the interface of the ARL and the environments they do their research in, I see first hand, real world applications for the work they do. From benefiting state and federal agencies, to protecting the states' natural resources, much of this cutting edge technology will find its' way to help the community at large. Particularly the climate adaption technologies, such as the hybrid reefs, will certainly help protect property and natural resources in the years to come. The ARL should be allowed to remain as a

conduit for engineering and research studies at UH, thus allowing opportunities and workforce development for students, small businesses and growing industries.

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

No file attached



## Testimony

1 message

---

**Ke'ala'iliahi Ford** <kford9@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 12:44 PM

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

To the members of the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents, I urge you to reject the renewal of the contract between the University of Hawai‘i and the Department of Defense for the Applied Research Laboratory. Allowing this contract to continue risks exacerbating environmental and cultural damage in our sacred lands. The potential stationing of more telescopes will continue destroying Native Hawaiian cultural sites and harming endangered species. The military space research on our revered mountains like Haleakalā and Mauna Kea threaten the sanctity of these lands and the health of our environment. Failing to conserve the land will have disastrous consequences for future generations, and disturbing sacred sites will provoke a severe backlash from both the community and the land itself. We must protect our heritage and environment from such destructive outcomes.

Sincerely,

Ke‘ala Ford

---

## Comments on Agenda items IV B and VII

1 message

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Cynthia Franklin <cfrankli@hawaii.edu>  
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 9:19 AM

Tuesday, September 17 2024

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and  
Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy,  
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied  
Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

### **Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

As a member of Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy,  
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied  
Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Thank you,

Cynthia Franklin

\*\*\*\*\*  
Cynthia Franklin (she/her)  
Professor  
Co-Editor, *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*  
Department of English (KUY 224)  
University of Hawai'i  
1733 [Donaghho Road](#)  
[Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822](#)  
[cfrankli@hawaii.edu](mailto:cfrankli@hawaii.edu)

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Sora Gallo

Your Organization (optional)

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

sonysnapper@comcast.net

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



**September 17, 2024**

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Sora Gallo

**Comments on IV B.** Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed**

**Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

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What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.



## Cancel UARC

1 message

---

**Cory Harden** <333cory@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 12:55 PM

Aloha regents, please cancel UARC. It is not aligned with UH's mission.  
Mahalo,  
Cory Harden, Hilo

Sent from my iPhone

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Your Name (required) \*

Bruce Howe

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Ocean and Resources Engineering

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

bhowe@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I fully support ARL's request for Navy contract renewal. I have worked my entire career in developing ocean observing – both the science and technology. ARL contributes essential developments mainly technology. For instance, working on connecting surface, underwater and seafloor instrumentation platforms, autonomous vehicles, both for communications as well as navigation. These will be key in the future observing off the global ocean for climate and disaster risk reduction.

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Your Name (required) \*

Alia Jeraj

Your Organization (optional)

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

jeraj.alia@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

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Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

### **Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies

supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

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**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

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For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Mahina Kaomea

Your Organization (optional)

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

mahina.kaomea@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Mahina Kaomea (community member)

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**



It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

## 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) \*

Isabella Kotsol

Your Organization (optional)

UH Manoa Mechanical Engineering Dept.

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

ikotsol@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**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

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Bob Lee

Your Organization (optional)

Retired

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

bobleehnl@msn.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

BOR should indemnify the US government, US Navy, NAVSEA for proposed contract N00024-24-D-6402 with UH ARL because this proposed contract will benefit the students at UH in advancing STEM education, dual benefits from defense projects toward the civilian sector, and contribute greatly to the economy of Hawaii.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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## Strong Opposition Builds as UH Regents Consider Indemnification for Military Research Contracts

1 message

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Nanea Lo <naneaclo@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 9:03 AM

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Opposition to: Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I am deeply concerned about the University of Hawai'i's ties with Israel and its unwillingness to take a stand against the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state responsible for human rights violations are in direct contradiction to its motto: *Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka* ("Above all nations is humanity"). We have a responsibility to stand up for justice, and that includes divesting from companies that support Israel's military actions. The University's failure to act in this regard aligns itself with Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people and calls into question its commitment to justice.

Moreover, the way the administration has handled student protests reveals a serious imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee offers surface-level educational programs, it ignores the deeper issue—who holds the power and how decisions are made. The policies that limit students' rights to protest, like selective space reservations, are arbitrary and favor university officials. We saw this with the UPASS town hall, where these policies did not apply to them. This double standard stifles legitimate dissent and undermines free speech rights.

If the University claims to uphold values like academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these injustices. It must also ensure students' constitutional rights to free speech are protected and address the power imbalances within its own administration. This is about humanity, not politics, and it's on the Regents to hold the institution accountable.

I am also strongly opposed to **Agenda Item VII**, which seeks approval to indemnify the federal government and the U.S. Navy for a contract that has not been properly reviewed. It is completely irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to move forward on this contract without adequate transparency and input from the public and Regents. The Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) has not addressed concerns raised by students, faculty, and the broader community regarding its ethics, transparency, and commitment to cultural integrity.

I urge the Board to delay approving this indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is thoroughly reviewed by both the public and the Regents. Decisions like these require shared governance. Without it, how can any of us be confident that the values of the students, faculty, and the broader community are being represented?

This contract could very well be in conflict with our values. The people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, who support genocide in Gaza, and who have a history of immoral, even illegal actions, could be given a free pass with this indemnification. How will this contract improve the world or protect innocent lives, especially those in Gaza? What role do Kānaka Maoli play in determining the research conducted in their homeland, and how does this benefit us?

Voting to indemnify this contract is a vote against transparency, shared governance, and the University's commitment to Kānaka Maoli and future generations. I implore you to vote to postpone this decision until we've had a chance to review the contract and gather community feedback. Do this for the sake of our keiki, for the future of our lāhui, and for the integrity of the University.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

**Nanea Lo** (*she/they/'o ia*) | Micro-influencer  
[Executive Director](#) | [Native Stories](#)  
[Executive Commission](#) | [Sierra Club of Hawai'i](#)  
[Board Member](#) | [Hawai'i Worker's Center](#)

Granter | Hawai'i People's Fund  
Commissioner | O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission  
(808)444-1229  
[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**"Some people say that Hawai'i will be a better place when Hawaiians no longer stand in the way of progress. But even these people must know that at this point, this will no longer be Hawai'i."** - Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio. The Value of Hawai'i

***Join us on Friday, November 15 for our  
Annual Workers' Victory Celebration!***

*We envision a Hawai'i in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being.*



## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

David Lonborg

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy

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

dlonborg@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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.

ARL is a valued partner and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the future. I hope you will approve this action so that their good work can continue.

### Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Hannah Manshel

Your Organization (optional)

Department of English UHM; SFJP @ UH

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

hannahmanshel@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Hannah Manshel, Assistant Professor of English, UHM and Affiliation

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

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If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance,

and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai‘i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O‘ahu‘s sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai‘i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai‘i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

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## Opposition to Agenda Item VII

1 message

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**Madison Owens** <owensmadison138@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 1:52 PM

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

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A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Thank you,

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## Testimony (09/19/2024)

1 message

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**Derek Rainey** <derekrai@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 2:55 PM

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: Derek Rainey (American Studies, PhD student)  
**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies. Even so, the minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to estimate without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and are awarded. With the very conservative assumption that all 1,534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the number comes out to \$4,145,292. This is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. This is not something that the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH is not prioritizing.

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai‘i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai‘i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

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Your Name (required) \*

Sonia Romero

Your Organization (optional)

ThriveHI

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

sonia@thrivehi.org

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

"Dear President Lassner and the UH BOR,

My name is Sonia Romero, and I am the Executive Director of ThriveHI, a nonprofit focused on building Hawaii's startup and tech ecosystem.

I would like to express my strong support for the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). Research shows that investment in local R&D is a key pillar to sustaining and growing a local

startup and tech economy. ARL not only helps develop innovations that solve some of the world's most pressing problems, but it also provides an opportunity for local students to work in deeply technical fields.

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

Sincerely,  
Sonia

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

J.E. 'Ānela Ryan

Your Organization (optional)

student and community member

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

anela.ryan73@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: J.E. 'Ānela Ryan, student and community member

**Comments on** IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

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How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the

research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

a hiki ke aloha 'āina hope loa,  
'Ānela Ryan

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

**BOR written testimony for 9\_19\_24 Meeting - J. Ryan (1).pdf** (76.4 kB)

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: J.E. ‘Ānela Ryan, student and community member

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

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a hiki ke aloha 'āina hope loa,

‘Ānela Ryan

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Shiv K. Sharma

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, SOEST, UHM

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

shiv@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Dr. Shiv K. Sharma, a UHM Faculty Member is the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, and also serving as the Graduate Faculty Members in the Department of Earth Sciences and Oceanography within SOEST, and also as a Graduate Faculty in the Department of Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering. I joined the University in 1980 and has been active both in research and teaching. My group has developed state of the art laser-Raman spectroscopy laboratory within HIGP with initial

funding from NSF and NASA for analyzing synthetic and natural materials such as minerals, and biological materials.

I have received funding from various funding agency including NSF, NASA, Office of Naval Research, US Army Research Laboratory as well as from Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) through the UH Applied Research Laboratory. The object of the "Standoff in-situ explosive Detection (IED) Project" supported by a contract with NAVSEA by ARL has been to develop advanced Raman and infrared Spectroscopic techniques for remotely detect the bulk and trace amounts of explosives.

Within HIGP, we have developed both remote laser Raman spectroscopic and IR reflectance techniques for chemical detection including minerals on planetary surfaces such as Mars with NASA funding, we were able to undertake this project. The funding provided by NAVSEA was used to get state-of-the-art lasers and telescopes and supported graduate students, Post-Doctoral Fellow and the soft-money faculty and technical personals. As the UH ARL has been identified by the Department of Defense have expertise in certain research area of excellence at UH at large, the ARL allows funding from various DoD departments. The objective of the IED project that we undertook has been to keep public, first responders and our service members safe while they perform their duties.

In summary, the ARL makes strongly positive contributions to the University of Hawai'i, the State of Hawai'i, and the nation as a whole, through the research it conducts. I hope we continue to support it, as being awarded a UARC is very prestigious.

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Michael Shulman

Your Organization (optional)

N/A

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

shulman.michael@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I strongly support the ARL.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



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## Testimony

1 message

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**Julie Stowell** <julie@lomikai.com>  
To: Bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 10:38 AM

Tuesday, September 17 2024

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and  
Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy,  
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied  
Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

### **Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

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Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

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How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Thank you,

Julie Stowell

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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.

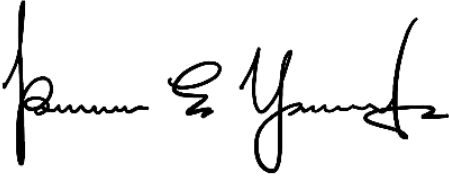
The ARL sits at the crossroads between two indispensable societal functions: The University of Hawai'i, an institution of discovery and learning, and the federal government, an institution in service and protection to our people and our planet. I believe that the federal government *needs* the perspective of the exceptional people of University of Hawai'i, seated at the table, and supporting solutions to the unprecedented problems of our time.

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

September 17, 2024

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 prominent vertical stroke on the left side.

Brennan Yamamoto



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## Testimony in opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government.

1 message

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**bronson azama** <bazama02@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 3:43 PM

Aloha,

Here is my testimony in opposition for this Thursday's Board of Regents meeting.

Mahalo,  
Bronson Azama



**Bronson Azama Testimony (1).pdf**

69K

Tuesday, September 17 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Bronson Azama

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has not undergone proper review by both the public and the Regents themselves. Past indemnification of contracts such as MHPCC that was approved in 2020, included much greater detail on the purpose of the research and anticipated outcomes than the vague document being proposed at this meeting.

The Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) has consistently failed to address serious concerns raised by students, faculty, and the broader community regarding transparency, shared governance, and the ethical and cultural integrity of Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. These persistent efforts to obscure the nature of ARL's research leave us with only generalities. But at what point does the community get a real say in the research being conducted? How does ARL collaborate meaningfully with the community? What policies and guidelines has the Board of Regents (BOR) established to determine the scope of ARL's research?

These are not just theoretical questions. The ARL is not addressing key issues in our community—whether on Mauna Kea or the Red Hill water crisis. And the Regents seem to have failed in their responsibility to engage with these concerns or reconcile them with the University's mission. We must ask: Who does this institution truly serve? And how do we ensure it serves them responsibly? The real question for the Regents is: how do you serve our community? Can you claim to serve when the public is kept in the dark, yet public resources are used to indemnify those responsible for poisoning our drinking water?

The public that PAYS for this public institution, including myself not only as a taxpayer, but tuition paying student, should be informed about the content of a contract that public resources will be leveraged to indemnify. What are you Regents doing to address the concerns expressed by students? I haven't seen in depth pursuit and due diligence on the practices of ARL or the contents of the upcoming contract. Nor has there been pursuits of greater oversight and guardrails for the research conducted at ARL.

As a young person, if these are the decisions adults hastily make, I weep for our future that seemingly grows as a false democracy. And anyone who votes yes on this knowingly contributes to the narrative that the University is governed by a fascist regime.

Postpone indemnification until the NAVSEA contract has been properly reviewed, and have incorporated community feedback.

Sincerely

Bronson Azama



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Your Name (required) \*

Christoph Baranec

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai'i, Institute for Astronomy

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

baranec@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 project 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 on this project.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Quinn Goo

Your Organization (optional)

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

qgoo@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Quinn Goo, Graduate student in the Educational Psychology department

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

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Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

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Your Name (required) \*

Kenneth Hafner

Your Organization (optional)

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

kenhafner@nomh.org

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I wholeheartedly support ARL (Applied Research Lab) and its presence in the State of Hawaii. The Lab offers our technical and student community firsthand experience in developing and applying top-quality technical science and research right here in Hawaii without their having to travel or re-locate out-of-state to obtain it.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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Your Name (required) \*

Troy Heitmann

Your Organization (optional)

Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

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

troyheit@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

The Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) has become a cornerstone for engineering research here in Hawaii. Without their financial support, I would not have been able to complete my PhD. Cutting funding will have a detrimental impact on many students who rely on these resources to pursue their education.

Currently, I work at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute at UH Manoa, where I have dedicated my career to advancing ocean renewable energy solutions that can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels—not only in Hawaii

but across the greater Pacific Island region. Although I am not originally from Hawaii, I have lived here for 17 years, and during that time, I have come to deeply respect the concerns of the opposition.

However, my primary goal is clear: to contribute to the fight against climate change, a global challenge that affects us all. I believe those who oppose the ARL's role would also support efforts to mitigate and adapt to this crisis. Tackling complex issues like climate change requires a strong educational foundation and a team of dedicated individuals.

The issue, in my view, is not with the ARL itself but with the need for more local jobs filled by local people who understand and respect the perspectives of the opposition. These roles can help bridge divides, fostering collaboration and shared goals. Taking funding away does the opposite. It reduces opportunities for students to improve their education, leads to the loss of high-quality jobs, drives skilled individuals away from the islands, and ultimately deepens the divisions within our community.

We must come together, find common ground, and work toward solutions that benefit everyone.

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

No file attached





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## Testimony in opposition to Item VII.C, proposed to indemnify U.S. Navy research

1 message

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**Bianca Isaki** <bianca@kahea.org>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 5:15 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Cc: Shelley Muneoka <shelley@kahea.org>, Lauren Muneoka <lauren@kahea.org>, Logan Narikawa <logan@kahea.org>, Marti Townsend <marti.townsend@gmail.com>, Jonathan Osorio <jonkkosorio@gmail.com>, Kyle Kajihiro <kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com>, cfranklister@gmail.com, Healani Sonoda-Pale <healanipale@gmail.com>, Laulani Teale <laulani@gmail.com>, Andre Perez <kanikapu@gmail.com>

Please find attached the Testimony of KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance in opposition to Item VII.C, proposed to indemnify U.S. Navy research. Mahalo.

--

Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance

808.927.5606



**2024.09.19 KAHEA BOR testimony.pdf**

168K



September 17, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

Re: Testimony of KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance in opposition to Item VII.C, proposed to indemnify U.S. Navy research.

PROTECTING

NATIVE HAWAIIAN

CUSTOMARY &

TRADITIONAL RIGHTS AND

OUR FRAGILE

ENVIRONMENT

Good morning Regents,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance (KAHEA) in opposition to Item VII.C, which proposed to indemnify the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for an Applied Research Laboratory contract.

KAHEA is a nonprofit organized in 2000, whose mission concerns the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i. KAHEA has long opposed the University's collaboration with U.S. military research projects through the private "University Affiliated Research Center" (UARC). We oppose Item VII.C as a further step towards cementing the hold that military funding has over the University.

In what is proposed before you now, the Navy will not be responsible for harms caused by research done for its benefit. Instead, the University will be responsible. Indemnifying the Navy would allow them to take no legal responsibility for things like the improper disposal of toxic materials or legal claims that come out of the often-secret military collaborative research between UH and the military. DFARS 252.223-7006. The Navy could determine to settle indemnified claims without UH agreeing to it if the Navy determines it to be in the "best interests of the Government". DFARS 227.7008.

Further, if the Board approves this item, the UH president will be unilaterally authorized to agree to further indemnification provisions. That your insurance is ok with at least one of these indemnifications does not render this decision safe for the University.

Indemnification is one step towards finalizing UH contracts with the military. Too much is secret and what we know already is enough to know it's wrong.

The U.S. military is, historically and now, the reason Hawai'i is occupied by america, Kānaka Maoli have been dispossessed of political sovereignty and land, and foreign (and local) financial speculators find Hawai'i a

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Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 37368  
Honolulu, HI 96837

toll-free phone/fax  
877.585.2432

www.KAHEA.org  
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

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*KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to English as "the call."*

“safe” investment for luxury development projects that displace our communities. The military has taken some of Hawai‘i’s most ecologically fragile lands for live fire training, with no promise to fully restore them. The U.S. military repeats this role in other countries. UH has not shown it can limit its complicity with endless military-driven oppression in the course of these military contracts. UH is our public university, paid for with our state tax dollars. It should be serving the best interests of our residents, students, faculty, and staff, not the U.S. military and its effort to dominate the world or destroy it in the process.

Me ke aloha,

KAHEA Board & Staff 2024

## 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) \*

Kelsey Kim

Your Organization (optional)

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

ktkim@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see attached document. Thank you!

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 17, 2024

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider the large amounts of feedback you have been receiving.

My name is Kelsey Kim and I am writing in support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii (UH). During my time as a graduate student in the Renewable Energy Industrial Automation Precision Engineering Laboratory (RIP Lab) at UH Manoa, I had the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge I had gained in the classroom to a real-world vessel through a collaborative research effort between RIP Lab and ARL developing control and navigation software for an unmanned surface vehicle (USV). Our labs shared the research motivations of cleaning Hawaii's beaches of garbage and of munitions disposed around the island following World War 2. Specific objectives for my teammates' and my research included automating the arrangement of an at-sea test environment for divers and other technologies to practice and assess their capabilities in detecting munitions on the ocean floor and developing automated ocean-floor scanning and garbage detection capabilities by fixing a sonar to our USV and studying the efficiency of various scanning patterns. Both objectives focused on improving Hawaii's environment.

ARL's positive impact on Hawaii's community extends beyond their research efforts, demonstrated through their support of Team Kanaloa, an undergraduate team at UH Manoa tasked with developing autonomous capabilities for a USV, and through the mentorship and guidance given to various senior design teams, labmates, classmates, and myself by the people at ARL. As my graduate mentor stressed during my research and studies, Hawaii is in a unique position to lead in maritime research and development. ARL provides learning and career opportunities as one of few Hawaii-based engineering research establishments, reducing the need for Hawaii's engineers, scientists, and scholars to leave their families and foundations for careers on the mainland. ARL has and continues to foster growth in Hawaii's scientific community through its technological research and through development and support of young engineers and scientists.

Thank you again for your consideration!

Kelsey Kim

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Your Name (required) \*

Shanamae Melton

Your Organization (optional)

ARL

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

shanamae\_melton@outlook.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing to state that I wholeheartedly support the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii (ARL at UH), and I encourage you to consider their request to approve the proposed contract with NAVSEA.

I am not only Hawaiian, but I am also an alum of UH who was a non-traditional student.

The ARL at UH has given me the opportunity to work alongside some of the brightest individuals who truly care about not just our communities but our nation. This team's dedication and professionalism is what ALOHA is all about.

With your support, the ARL at UH will be able to continue to conduct cutting-edge research in the areas of Ocean Environmental Effects; Astronomical Research; Advanced Electro-Optical Systems, Detectors, Arrays and Instrumentation; Environmental Sensor Research and Remote Sensing; New Renewable Energy; and Mission-Related and Public-Services-Oriented Research and Development.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Shanamae Melton

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Andrew Meyer

Your Organization (optional)

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

andrewm9@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**ALU-BoR-Testimony-template-for-Sept-19-(copy).doc** (7.9 kB)



September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Andrew Meyer, PhD Candidate, Department of Physics and Astronomy

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified

as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

## 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) \*

Clint Reyes

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

ccreyes@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I am a PhD student at the Department of Ocean Resources and Engineering at the University of Hawaii. I am currently in my second year and my research work is partly supported by the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL). I am very grateful for this and without it I would not be able to work on Marine renewable energy which was one of the reasons I chose to study here.

Thus, this extends to all the support that ARL has provided from its existence to several other students under the program. Without its continued support for students, we would not have a strong program in marine renewables to attract brilliant and productive students and professors interested in working on such topics.

I am confident that the funding received for my work will be well worth it for the benefit of the advancement of the technology and researchers all over the world. This also applies to the potential future students that can receive support from ARL.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Nicholas Ulm

Your Organization (optional)

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

ulmn@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha, I am a PhD candidate in the Ocean and Resource Engineering program here at UH. My PhD dissertation focuses on the development of the Halona wave energy converter, which is a marine renewable energy project whose fundamental research was started under ARL efforts. The ARL has been absolutely pivotal in my ability to complete my dissertation, with the support of its staff working diligently to be able to execute tasks on time. It has been my experience that there exists no better part of the university system than my experiences with ORE and ARL.

I have had many experiences with other parts of UH system that have demonstrated the worst aspects of a bureaucracy; a bureaucracy that negatively impact the students of UH and thus the students of the state of

Hawaii. Having come from Johns Hopkins University for my undergraduate, I have had the privilege to be able to proudly attend 2 institutions within the UARCs. Working with ARL has been a glimpse of how a top-class university, such as the one I attended for undergraduate, should function. Their staff operate with strict professionalism and unrelenting support for students when other parts of the university have come across unhelpful at the best and negligent at its worst. The ARL is my preferred research unit partner because of how effective they are at supporting students and their research.

Having been born and raised in Hawaii, I was raised with the strong cultural connection to this community. I have seen many of my childhood friends struggle to make here. And ultimately, many of them have had to leave the state because of a lack of job opportunities, the cost of living, and a lack of quality education. It is because of the ARL and the efforts that they support that I was able to come back to my home state to complete my graduate studies. It is because of the ARL that I have been exposed to the resources that I have needed to be successful in my education. In the process of my research with ARL, I have been able to mentor over 20 students who grew up in Hawaii. It is because of the ARL that all 20 of these students have received job training under my research. It is because of the ARL that all 20 of these students landed jobs right out of college, specifically in the state of Hawaii. Without the ARL, innovation in marine renewable energy in the state of Hawaii will struggle. Without the ARL supporting students in the Ocean and Resource Engineering program, the state of Hawaii will be significantly worse off because a key job training mechanism will be lost. In the strongest terms, the ARL needs to be able to support these and other NAVSEA funded efforts.

It should not be lost on the board of regents that the state of Hawaii has some of the highest energy costs out of any other state. We have limited land resources. We cannot allocate all of our land to wind turbines and solar panels, especially given an equally important housing crisis. Marine renewable energy is absolutely critical to the success and future of our state because it unlocks the potential of the state to electrify its communities without consuming large areas of our finite land resources. If we hope to ever be unburdened by the yoke of fossil fuels, we need efforts such as the US Navy Wave Energy Test Site to succeed. And I do not know of a better institution within the UH system than the ARL to execute this mission.

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Mayah Walker

Your Organization (optional)

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

mayahw@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

I support the ARL because they contribute funds for me as a graduate research assistant at UH Manoa in the mechanical engineering department which improves my knowledge and provides exceptional guidance towards developing a renewable energy technology that also improves the performance of necessary breakwaters for costal protection or harbor installation. During my education, I have learned to hold the opinion of the local community and consideration for wildlife to the highest regard when pursuing my research. The name of this technology is a slotted barrier breakwater integrated with a fixed oscillating water column wave energy converter. If a breakwater is absolutely needed, this design allows for the local water quality to be maintained and reduces the amount of wave energy transmitted to the shore by extracting it to generate electricity. In conclusion, the funding I have received from ARL to pursue my research has

contributed to technology being developed out of respect and consideration for all people and nature in order to improve existing coastal protection structures to meet the needs of everyday people and help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Darryll Wong

Your Organization (optional)

Self

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

Darryllw@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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 known and worked with Margo Edwards and people at the ARL for over 15 years and extend my strongest support for the 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 for the State. As a member of a private high school Board very interested in promoting STEM, the ARL offered and continues to offer internships to 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 to develop a workforce for our State. The collaboration with other organizations, Universities and Research Labs across the Nation helps to strengthen departments within our University. I again extend my strongest support for the UH ARL. Mahalo and Aloha!

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Nathan Abril

Your Organization (optional)

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

nathan.abril@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Nathan F. Abril

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared

governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Jason M Alexander

Your Organization (optional)

UHM

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

jasonma@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) **postpone approval** of an indemnification until, at a minimum, the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by BOTH the public and BOR.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This agenda item denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not allowed to review. How can Regents commit all stakeholders of a public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that I as a UHM PhD student, as well as faculty and involved community, agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the Department of Defense as the institution and authorities who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, are supporting genocide in Gaza and West Bank, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Palestine? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

**A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, against shared governance, against UH's own Strategic Plan's promise to fulfill kuleana to Kānaka Maoli, and against my own and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.**

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

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

No file attached

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## Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.

1 message

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**Makani Brun** <makanib@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 12:12 PM

Wednesday, September 18 2024

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai‘i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at



Hawai‘i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai‘i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai‘i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Thank you,

Makani Brun

## 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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

The ARL has been instrumental to the training of undergraduate and graduate students as well as stimulating forefront research. I can assess that I have personally become a better researcher and mentor thanks to my long collaboration with the ARL. I have had students graduating their Master or PhD working on projects with the ARL. It was always extremely professional and the ARL has been absolutely wonderful in their support for myself and the students. The ARL is a well needed institution within UH and I am in full support of them.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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## Testimony on IV B. and Item VII

1 message

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**Monisha Das Gupta** <dasgupta@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 12:37 PM

### **Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate**

The University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University *divest* from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and *terminate* these partnerships. The BOR has a unique responsibility to uphold the mission of this university where we teach human rights and inculcate a commitment to social justice.

Furthermore, the use of the euphemism “campus climate” obscures the imbalance in power that students experience when exercising their legitimate right to protest Israel’s genocide in Gaza. Students’ rights to peacefully protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. These moves to curtail the rights of students run counter to Executive Policy 10.206. (see B.1. and B.4 and note that the students follow the parameters set for peaceful assembly that do not interfere with the academic activities on campuses). The selective application of policy reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

### **Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

I ask that the Board of Regents (BOR) *postpone* approval of the indemnification *until the NAVSEA contract is thoroughly reviewed by the public and Regents*. The contract has yet to be reviewed by the public and Regents themselves! ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai‘i’s only public higher education institution.

Decisions of this magnitude need to take the practice of shared governance seriously. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be liable for a contract with the very military entities that poisoned O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own and under international laws.

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations’ opportunity for peace and not war.

SFJP Member

Monisha Das Gupta

Professor, Departments of Ethnic Studies and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

306 George Hall

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Pronouns in Bengali, my vernacular, are not gendered.

Pronouns in English: she/her

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Your Name (required) \*

Kyle Kajihiro

Your Organization (optional)

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

kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

I testify in strong opposition to the request to indemnify the federal government, the U.S. Navy, and NAVSEA for the proposed contract N00024-24-D-6402. The structure of the UARC contract is such that UH would conduct task ordered research for the Navy, in a sense, acting as a trusted agent of the federal government. It would be irresponsible for the Board of Regents to indemnify the federal government for harm that may result from research tasked to the University of Hawai'i.

The actual contents of the proposed UARC contract have not been disclosed to the public. There is no way to evaluate the risk and ethical issues raised by the UARC contract. The Board of Regents cannot responsibly indemnify the federal government for activities that have not been described or disclosed.

What fiscal and program audits have been done of the ARL? Has the Board done its due diligence to review the track record of this secret program. And how will the public ever have confidence about this program if it remains under a shroud of secrecy.

I am deeply concerned that preliminary drafts of UARC renewal plans suggest that UH would be engaged in research to enhance the "lethality" of military warfighting technologies. This runs against the spirit of UH as a Hawaiian place of learning and contrary to the assurances given by proponents of the UARC that UH would not be engaged in weapons related research. These concerns were raised when the UARC was first proposed. But the secrecy surrounding the UARC ensures that there will be no public accountability for the work conducted by the UARC on behalf of the Navy.

We have a recent reminder of the danger of military secrecy to our community. The Red Hill fuel spill and water contamination disaster is an example of how military secrecy hid a culture of negligence and malfeasance which resulted in a monumental public health and environmental crisis. UH, as a state institution, has a duty to mālama the public trust. Entering into a secret pact with the military runs counter to this kuleana. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

No file attached



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## Testimony in Opposition to BoR Agenda Item VII.C

1 message

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**Kaliko Kalāhiki** <kalikokalahiki@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 5:56 AM

Aloha nō,

Attached is my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Kaliko Kalāhiki

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 **BoR testimony.pdf**  
75K

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Kalikoonāmaukūpuna Kalāhiki (community member) :

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**



It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

KATHERINE MCKENZIE

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii

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

kamckenz@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha BOR Chair and Members and Directors,  
ARL plays a key role in Hawaii bringing in vital federal research funds to develop renewable energy and grid integration, critical to Hawaii's future. Meeting the State's goal of 100% renewable electricity generation by 2045 will require technological advances yet to be achieved. Hawaii's keiki and future generations depend on these advancements. ARL's research and development projects also contribute to the potential global success in reducing GHG emissions and finding a way forward. The alternative is unthinkable. Please continue to support ARL.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Baseem Missaghi

Your Organization (optional)

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

baseem@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Friends,

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.

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.

Thank you,  
Baseem Missaghi

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Kayla Oshiro

Your Organization (optional)

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

kaylaso@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Kayla Oshiro (BAPH graduate from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai‘i’s only public higher education institution. I request

the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai‘i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai‘i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.



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Your Name (required) \*

Jade Rivera

Your Organization (optional)

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

jadelarivera17@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: Jade Rivera (Community Member)  
September 18, 2024

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and  
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[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: Jade Rivera (Community Member)  
September 18, 2024

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and  
Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval  
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Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate. In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

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**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents. Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very

people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws. How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i? A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war. For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

## 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) \*

Jordan Roybal-Garrison

Your Organization (optional)

ARL

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

kgarrison39@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

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.

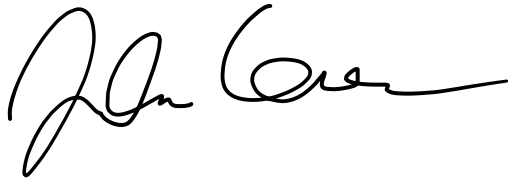
I am a U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal veteran, I served for 8 years in the US Navy's Bomb Squad – during my service I learned about nearly every explosive in arsenal of weapons and bombs possessed by the United States and other nations. After my service in the Navy, I enrolled at the University 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,

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) \*

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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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) \*

Zoe

Your Organization (optional)

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

Zoegraceuhr@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: **Zoe Uhr** (Community Member)  
September 18, 2024

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and  
Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

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If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

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[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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: Dianne Deauna, graduate student

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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

No file attached



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**Fwd: public comment submission for IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i**

1 message

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**rose elovitz** <626.rose@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 10:02 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **rose elovitz** <626.rose@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 2:40 PM

Subject: public comment submission for IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i

To: &lt;bor.testimony@hawaii.org&gt;

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Rose Elovitz, Jewish Voice for Peace Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa alumni

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and****Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

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FREE PALESTINE

FREE HAWAI'i





UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Item V11.B.

1 message

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**cindy Freitas** <makainanqi@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 4:36 PM

Mahalo Cindy Freitas



**Testimony for BOR Military.docx**  
8K

September 18, 2024

Cindy Freitas  
[makainanqi@gmail.com](mailto:makainanqi@gmail.com)

Board of Regents

Meeting: 9/19/24  
Time : 9:00 am  
Location: Leeward Community  
College, ED-201

RE: Testimony for item VII.B.

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm OPPOSING item V11.B. for the following reasons:

U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command ("NAVSEA") will not be responsible for things like the improper disposal of toxic materials or legal claims that come out of the often-secret military collaborative research between UH and the Navy under the private "UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTER" (UARC). If the Navy isn't responsible for harm its's secret research then WE the PEOPLE of HAWAII will be paying for there "MISTAKES" and "ERRORS".

The U.S. MILITARY has taken some of HAWAII'S mots ECOLOGICALLY fragile LANDS for live FIRE TRAINING, with NO PROMISE to fully RESTORE them.

For 70 years (Since World War I and II) the U.S. military repeats this role in other countries.

We understand the motivation to defend Naval assets and personnel against silent deisel/electric submarines. However, detecting marine mammals reliably enough to assure that no mortalities will take place, is essentially impossible. Thus, the long-term challenge is to dial down the need for these training exercises altogether, which is a problem of international relations and diplomacy. The responsibility lies with the office of the President of the United States, the State Department and Congress to prevent this immanent danger to marine life by fostering improved international relations and thereby reducing hostilities.

UH needs to get off the MILITARY gravy-train and stay true to its MISSION and pay more than lip service to being a HAWAIIAN plan of learning.

## LAWS

The Constitution of the State of Hawai'i clearly states the duty of the State and its agencies is to preserve, protect, and prevent interference with the traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiians. Article XII, Section 7 requires the State to “protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by *ahupua'a* tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778” (2000). In spite of the establishment of the foreign concept of private ownership and western-style government, Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) preserved the peoples traditional right to subsistence. As a result in 1850, the Hawaiian Government confirmed the traditional access rights to native Hawaiian *ahupua'a* tenants to gather specific natural resources for customary uses from undeveloped private property and waterways under the Hawaiian Revised Statutes (HRS) 7-1. In 1992, the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court,

reaffirmed HRS 7-1 and expanded it to include, “native Hawaiian rights...may extend beyond the *ahupua'a* in which a native Hawaiian resides where such rights have been customarily and traditionally exercised in this manner” (Pele Defense Fund v. Paty, 73 Haw.578, 1992).

In view of the Hawaii State Supreme Court's "PASH" and "Ka Pa' akai 0 Ka 'Aina" decisions, the issue relative to native Hawaiian gathering and fishing rights must be addressed. These rights must be addressed in terms of the cultural, historical, and natural resources and the associated traditional and customary practices of the site.

Act 50, enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii (2000) with House Bill 2895, relating to Environmental Impact Statements, proposes that:

...there is a need to clarify that the preparation of environmental assessments or environmental impact statement should identify and address effects on Hawaii's culture, and traditional and customary rights...[H.B. NO. 2895]

Me ka ha'aha'a,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Freitas



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Comment On Agenda Item VII, Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL)

1 message

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**Tatsuki kohatsu** <bcbcbc.k.t@gmail.com>  
To: BOR.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 9:06 PM

Dear UH Board of Regents Committee,

I am attaching my comments regarding Agenda Item VII, Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL).

Thank you,  
Tatsuki

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 **Sep 18, Kohatsu (1).docx**  
16K

September 18, 2024

**On Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Tatsuki Kohatsu. I am a graduate student at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. I am writing in opposition to the Agenda Item VII: Approval to indemnify the federal government for the proposed contract with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL). ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at the University of Hawaii. It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to accept the liability of the contract whose ordered tasks are not made transparent and have yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. I request that the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

The BOR has the responsibility to ensure our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of any project that it undertakes. Such an effort is particularly essential for this case because public resources would be used for the liability that may derive from projects to develop technologies for the military, the entity that has historically damaged the environment and people's livelihoods as exemplified by the fuel leaks at Red Hill as well as its support of genocide in Gaza.

Furthermore, the recommended action reads as follows:

It is recommended that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents approve the indemnification provisions set forth in the proposed ARL contract with NAVSEA, and further authorize the President in the exercise of prudent business judgment, to agree to future similar indemnification obligations that may be required by NAVSEA during the course of this ARL contract.

Such an action not only approves the current indemnification provisions in the contract, but also limits transparency and public inputs on this matter by expediting the process where additional indemnification obligations may be concerned in the future.

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own commitment to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations. For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action.

Thank you,

Tatsuki Kohatsu



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

## Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; Opposition to Agenda Item VII.

1 message

**Ezra Levinson** <ezra.levinson@gmail.com>  
To: BOR.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 6:05 PM

Members of the Board of Regents,

I write as a Jewish college student raised in Hawaii to comment on the campus climate at the University of Hawaii and express my opposition to Agenda Item VII.

### Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.

In partnership with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative and urgent that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

### Opposition to Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Sincerely and urgently,

Ezra Levinson

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Ezra Levinson | any pronouns ([why share pronouns?](#))

[ezra.website](#)





BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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**Fwd: Please end the UARC cobtract**

1 message

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**Brandy Nālani McDougall** <brandyndm@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 2:20 PM

Brandy Nālani McDougall

Hawai'i Poet Laureate, 2023-2025  
Graduate Chair, AMST  
Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies  
American Studies Department  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

Affiliate faculty, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UHM  
Affiliate faculty, UH Indigenous Politics Program  
Affiliate faculty, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, UHM

*Āina Hānau/ Birth Land*

University of Arizona Press, 2023

*Finding Meaning: Kaona and Contemporary Hawaiian Literature*

University of Arizona Press, 2016

*Huihui: Navigating Art and Literature in the Pacific*

University of Hawai'i Press, 2014

*The Salt-Wind/ Ka Makani Pa'akai*

Kuleana 'Ōiwi Press, 2008

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandy Nālani McDougall** <brandyndm@hawaii.edu>

Date: Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Please end the UARC cobtract

To: <bor.testimony@hawaii.org>

Dear Board of Regents:

I write to urge you to

- 1) Postpone the decision to indemnify the UARC contract until the contract is publicly available, and the public has had time to review and provide informed feedback; and to
- 2) Terminate the UARC contract for its undermining of UH's mission, and prevent further entanglement with the U.S. military.

I am a UHM faculty member. I teach Indigenous Studies courses in the American Studies department and am a Kanaka 'Ōiwi alumnus of UHM. It is deeply disturbing that UHM violates it's mission for military money, but more so that my alma mater and current place of employment is complicit in the extreme violence and war-making/mongering by the U.S. military, which is also one of the largest polluters in the world. Hawai'i

has been used by the U.S. military as a testing and dumping site for decades at the expense of the health of our lands and our communities.

From Kapūkaki/Red Hill to UARC, the U.S. Military brings death and sickness from its toxic chemicals and bomb/live fire training. The reasons for keeping their activities confidential is so that the public won't know the extent of the harm they cause. It is not, however, even a question that severe harm is committed constantly and widely.

If we are to seriously call ourselves an Indigenous serving university, than we should not place Indigenous communities and lands (both here and elsewhere, such as in Palestine) in harm's way by continuing the contract with UARC. This contract makes us all complicit in the death and destruction in the name of imperialism and colonialism that the U.S. military brings.

Mahalo,  
Brandy

Brandy Nālani McDougall

Hawai'i Poet Laureate, 2023-2025  
Graduate Chair, AMST  
Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies  
American Studies Department  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

Affiliate faculty, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UHM  
Affiliate faculty, UH Indigenous Politics Program  
Affiliate faculty, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, UHM

*‘Āina Hānau/ Birth Land*  
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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) \*

Jessica Nakamura

Your Organization (optional)

Maui for Palestine

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

jessinaka21@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**Testimony-UH.pdf** (79.3 kB)

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Jessica Nakamura, Maui for Palestine

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government**

**, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised

by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

## comments for Item IV B & Item VII

1 message

**Jordan Nakamura** <jordanknakamura@gmail.com>  
To: BOR.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 8:52 PM

Aloha e Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing to you today in solidarity with UH alumni, current concerned students and faculty, and in particular the Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH). Regarding Item IV B. I'd like to offer comments on the Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate. I strongly echo SFJP's concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address what most of the international community including the International Court of Justice have officially defined as the illegal and 75+ years of ongoing genocide in Palestine committed by the Zionist entity, and now rapidly expanding its Zionist settler violence to other regions like Yemen and Lebanon. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. This much is clear to the public observing the situation not just at UH but all around the continent, where similar unconstitutional crackdowns have been taking place and setting off a rapidly mounting tide of concern and outrage at what is unquestionably a suppression of students' right of expression as well as right to exist safely on campus. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

In regards to my opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i, I'd like to reiterate the fact that it is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Mahalo, Jordan Kaponu Nakamura



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## Agenda Item VIII, A5, Indemnification, 9/19/24 Meeting

1 message

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**Kate Paine** <kate@hula.net>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 11:06 PM

Regents,

In light of Red Hill impact on health of all residents now and in the future, any dealings with military affairs should be subsequently held to a higher level of transparent, ethical standards. To require pre-approved indemnification in trade for taxpayer contracts funding is certainly unethical and smacks of bullying. Our military is careless and should not be given carte blanche approvals.

Does University independence — what's not already compromised by our own State gvmnt meddling --- get compromised by this money? Clearly, department heads who would be receiving any largess should not be testifying in favor of indemnification; it's a conflict of interest and not in the best interest of any hoped-for, resilient university reputation.

Simply say, "No". It's for all the right reasons.

Kate Paine  
keiki o ka 'aina





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## testimony for 9-18-24 BoR meeting

1 message

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**Colleen Rost-Banik** <mcrb@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 4:01 PM

Aloha Board of Regents,

Please accept my testimony (attached) regarding BOR - VII.C. in advance of the Board of Regents' meeting on September 18, 2024. To clarify what is in my testimony, I OPPOSE the request to approve indemnification of the NAVSEA and ARL contract.

Mahalo for your time and attention.  
Colleen Rost-Banik

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Colleen Rost-Banik, Ph.D.  
Instructor, Department of Sociology  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa



**BOR UARC testimony 9-18-24.pdf**  
82K

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Colleen Rost-Banik, Instructor, UH Mānoa

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents have the kuleana to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance,

and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai‘i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai‘i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai‘i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, I urge your vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Mahalo for your time.  
Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD  
Instructor  
UH, Mānoa

## 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) \*

Katie Stevens

Your Organization (optional)

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

mauikatie33@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha BOR,

Maui has been my home for all my life. I graduated from Maui High in 2019 and then attended university on the mainland. After graduating from university in 2023, I was very fortunate to be able to move back to Maui with a job at Maui High Performance Computing Center. At MHPCC I am able to continue pursuing an interesting tech career in my specialty and be able to be close to my family and friends. This is possible

because of the support and contracts from ARL-UH that provide funding to us. Please approve this contract so that we are able to continue contributing to our community.

Thank you,

Katie Stevens

Application Engineer

MHPCC

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

No file attached



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

## **Fwd: Comments on item IV B-- the "Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate"- & Opposition to Item VII, the "Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with ARL, UH."**

1 message

**Dawn Webster** <dmoraiswebster@gmail.com>  
 To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 7:45 PM

Dear Regents:

### **Item IV B Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

I remain deeply proud and grateful for my academic journey at UH leading to my Ph.D in English (Life Writing).

But I am increasingly alarmed by, and ashamed of the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity").

It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships.

Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power.

Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials. The administration's suppression of legitimate dissent, violates constitutional free speech protections.

As Regents you have the power and the kuleana to uphold the University's stated commitment to academic freedom, human rights, and justice. Please end UH's association with Israel's appalling carnage including the destruction of every university Gaza. Please also protect the constitutional rights of students. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity, moral accountability and simple decency.

### **Opposition to Agenda Item VII: Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

For the sake of our children and in the interests of governance, please vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed and receive community feedback. Please do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members.

The UH Board of Regents cannot, in good conscience, indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and by the Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and the ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution.

Without adequate review by the public and the Regents, we cannot make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should commit to an indemnification of the parties to this contract.

Do you know if this contract is aligned with the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? How can we lift liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, who are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws? These are questions each of you must ask yourself.

How does this contract ensure better behavior and how will it benefit Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency and shared governance. Please postpone this vote until you and we have had the opportunity to thoroughly understand the contract. Please do not forsake future generations and deny them the opportunity for justice and peace.

Mahalo nui.

*Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.*

*1, Keahole Place, #3501, Honolulu, HI 96825*

*808-383-7581*

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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) \*

Zoe Bashkin

Your Organization (optional)

Community Member

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

zoerbashkin@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Zoe Bashkin, Community Member

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and**

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate.**

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai‘i’s relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University’s continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, “Maluna a’e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka” (“Above all nations is humanity”). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel’s military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel’s atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration’s handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students’ rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration’s overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai‘i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai‘i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai‘i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH’s own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

## 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) \*

Jenna

Your Organization (optional)

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

j3nna.riv@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and Opposition to: Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate. In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with

Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

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Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws. How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they/we receive that empowers their/our community, and all of Hawai'i? A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war. For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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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) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UH\_BOR\_Support\_2024\_Sept\_revB.pdf.pdf (93.2 kB)

Dear President Lassner and Board of Regents,

I am submitting this testimony in strong and unwavering support of the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawaii (UH), in relation to agenda item VII.C. ARL at UH provides unique and advanced research and development capabilities that are of critical importance to the nation, the state of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii system. The laboratory not only serves as a crucial center of innovation but also represents a rare asset that elevates Hawaii's role in cutting-edge technology, defense, and scientific progress.

As a native Hawaiian, born and raised on these islands, and an alumnus of Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawaii, I hold a deep sense of connection to our community, its cultural values, and the need for self-sustenance in key sectors such as technology. My journey has always been motivated by the desire to live and work in Hawaii while contributing to groundbreaking research and technological advancements. ARL at UH makes this aspiration achievable, offering a platform for individuals like me to thrive in the fields of defense and engineering without having to leave the islands.

With over 15 years of experience as an engineer supporting the U.S. Navy as a civil servant, and now as an electrical engineer at ARL, I can personally attest to the value ARL brings, not only in technical capability but in creating opportunities for local talent. For Hawaii residents who wish to advance their careers in technology and innovation, ARL represents a beacon of hope—offering the ability to remain in our 'Āina, close to family and culture, while working at the forefront of national defense and research. This is particularly important in a state like Hawaii, where high-level technical opportunities are often scarce, leading many to seek employment elsewhere. ARL at UH mitigates this brain drain by offering top-tier research opportunities here at home.

Moreover, ARL's contributions extend far beyond providing career pathways. It serves as a vital source of technical expertise and innovation that benefits the community in tangible ways. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, ARL demonstrated its commitment to public service by developing critical tools such as the multi-split ventilator system and a mask-use counting application. These innovations provided immediate support during an unprecedented public health crisis. More recently, in the wake of the devastating Maui wildfires, ARL at UH played an instrumental role by collaborating with the Maui tech community to distribute Starlink terminals, ensuring connectivity during an emergency. The laboratory also offered expertise to the Department of Health on remote sensing capabilities, contributing to more effective disaster response efforts.

These examples highlight how ARL at UH is not merely a research institution but a cornerstone of community resilience and support. Through its efforts, ARL strengthens Hawaii by leveraging technology to address both urgent crises and long-term developmental needs. Furthermore, the lab's partnerships with local industries foster collaboration and innovation that enhance Hawaii's standing in the national and global technology sectors. By building and maintaining these local relationships, ARL helps position Hawaii as a leader in technological and defense research, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of innovation while nurturing our local economy.

The ARL at UH stands as an institution that honors both its commitment to national defense and its duty to the community, demonstrating the true spirit of innovation and service. It is a powerful example of how local and global interests can intersect to create lasting, positive impacts. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Board of Regents to continue its support for ARL at UH, recognizing the critical role it plays not only in advancing research but in supporting Hawaii's people and its future.

Thank you for your time, attention, and your ongoing commitment to supporting the ARL and the broader UH community.

Aloha,

Donald Kaulukukui

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Tiare Martin

Your Organization (optional)

ARL UH

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

tiare\_martin@outlook.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), 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

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Jill Nunokawa

Your Organization (optional)

Personal Capacity, Aloha Aina

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

kalohe14@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Please find my lengthy testimony attached.

Queen Lili'uokalani famously stated, "You must remember never to cease to act because you FEAR you may fail."

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

TO: Gabriel Lee, Chair  
Board of Regents  
University of Hawai'i System

FROM: Jill Leilani Nunokawa, Esq.  
Personal Capacity, Committed and Concerned Community Member

RE: September 19, 2024 Board of Regents Meeting Agenda Item: VII. C.  
Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea  
Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with  
the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,

I am submitting written testimony to document both my long-standing opposition to UARC, also known as ARL at UH, and the community's opposition. On September 3, 2024, I submitted written testimony that included prior opposition to the UARC, along with a slide show I provided at the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Committee meeting on Institutional Success, which I was not allowed to go over because of the BOR's arbitrary time limits placed on anyone not operating under the current regime's power and control. I incorporate all prior testimony along with this written submission to evidence the historical, current and future violations of BOR policies, ethical requirements, fiduciary duties, legal obligations and blatant conflicts of interest. I also incorporate all documents that are either accompanying this testimony or cited in my testimony for notice and legal purposes. As I have stated numerous times, the Board of Regents cannot neglect, ignore, abandon, hide and deny its legal, procedural/policy, ethical and moral obligations to our System student bodies, employees, public at large and State Legislature.

I begin with the glaring manipulation of the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regent agendas that obscure and obfuscate the purpose and procedures needed for proper notice, which is supposed to allow all members of the System university community and the public at large a fair and full opportunity to research, discuss, formulate, share knowledge, develop testimony, and submit free speech opinions on specific action items or "presentations". Since its initial public rollout, the University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) has been met with strong opposition by students, faculty, staff and community members. Once UH administration was allowed to formulate, operate, and administer Department of Defense (DoD) funding under sole source contracts by the Board of Regents, the UARC morphed and changed into the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). For many years, ARL at UH has operated "under the radar" by utilizing the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i to hire and fire employees of the ARL at UH. This shrouded mechanism affords the UH and RCUH administration to maneuver like "stealth" fighters without any legitimate and moral oversight,

accountability, transparency, inclusivity, and integrity. As stated in my September 5<sup>th</sup> testimony, Jan and Leonard Gouveia are married and have the authority and oversight of all employees within the University of Hawai'i system and the RCUH. Both owe their respective allegiance to UH President/UH-Manoa Chancellor/Principal Investigator on huge DoD contracts/BOR designee to oversee and have authority over UH system operations including approving any contract over \$1,000,000.

### **David Lassner**

The University System office gained even more power and control with the 2021 reorganization allowing the UH President's regime to operate without any real semblance of checks and balances, legal or moral oversight, ethical boundaries, or accountability to the University of Hawai'i's stated mission, purpose, goals, and Strategic Plan. Every hand picked UH System Vice President is influenced and controlled by the UH President, this includes the Vice President for Legal Affairs.

There has and continues to be a concealed, concerted and corrupted effort to control both the BOR agendas and free speech through censorship (oral and written), thereby violating the BOR policies/stated UH mission/goals/strategic plan, Federal and State laws, universal laws of decency, self-determination and free will agency. The regime's efforts in collaboration with the Board of Regents has been staggering, suffocating, and repugnant.

The following account of the UARC scandal, also known as ARL at UH, provides concrete examples of the DoD's influence and control over the State of Hawai'i's only PUBLIC institution of high education. I will be citing from a document submitted to the UH Board of Regents on September 24, 2007 entitled, "The Dirty Secret About UARC: 'Military Pork', Government Secrecy, and the Corrupt Origins of the University of Hawai'i UARC" (Dirty UH UARC) by Kyle Kajihiro on behalf of the SAVE UH/Stop UARC Coalition for the historical facts that evidence the scandals surrounding and enveloping the Dirty UH UARC. Please pay close attention to the primary actors who lied at the formation of the UARC and who continue to conceal and lie today, especially UH VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos.

In 2024, the ASUH President and members of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) formally requested the Board of Regents to place the ARL at UH renegotiated contracts on its agenda, along with others from the community. The BOR refused and consistently censored students from testifying about the ongoing ARL at UH contract negotiations by UH President/UH-Manoa Chancellor/Principal Investigator David Lassner with the DoD. Additionally, the brave ASUH students unanimously passed Senate Resolution 06-24: Demanding the University of Hawai'i No Longer Serve as a University Affiliated Research Center, and transmitted the resolution to the UH President (Principal Investigator on the UARC contracts), the Board of Regents, the University of Hawai'i student caucus, Chair Amy Perruso of the House Higher Education Committee, Chair Donna Mercado Kim of the Senate Higher Education Committee and Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation.

True to form, the UH President's regime controlled the Board of Regents and its agenda by secretly slipping in a "Presentation on the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i" on the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board of Regents Committee on Institutional Success.

The notice of this “presentation”, not a recommendation item, was on the Friday afternoon, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, leading into the three-day Labor Day weekend. Buried in 12 agenda items and hundreds of pages of materials, was a glossy, self-promoting document that UH’s VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos (Syrmos) presented to the BOR after ARL at UH employees testified. It is very important to note that many of the ARL at UH employees wrote or spoke of supporting the ten (10) year extension of the ARL at UH contracts with the DoD. This was neither part of the self-serving slide show or on the Board’s agenda for September 5<sup>th</sup>. So how would ARL at UH employees be able to truthfully testify on ARL at UH and the DoD contract negotiations? It is precisely this type of secrecy, dishonesty and manipulation that garnered the original and ongoing opposition to the UARC.

As part of his ongoing efforts, the UH President/UH-Manoa Chancellor/Principal Investigator on huge DoD contracts, continues to accelerate his personal DoD negotiations on ARL at UH contracts and other unknown negotiations related to the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) aka Vanguard Center on Maui, without ANY proper oversight, accountability, audit, transparency or UH faculty, staff and student or public knowledge or input. This is easily evidenced by VP Syrmos’s Memorandum submittal transmitted via VP Kalbert Young, VP Carrie Okinaga and President David K. Lassner to Gabriel Lee, Chairperson of the Board of Regents stamped by the Board Office on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:16 a.m.

Later in the afternoon of Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Board of Regents posted the September 19<sup>th</sup> agenda, which listed a new and never disclosed consent item as “Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai’i.” Again, NO adequate or proper procedural notice to the University’s faculty, staff or students nor the public at large. This “end around” and business as usual maneuver should be admonished by the Board of Regents as it circumvents the core principles of democracy and the mission and goals of PUBLIC institutions of higher education. At the bare and transparent minimum, the Board of Regents must allow all stakeholders an opportunity to review the request to consent to a “blanket” indemnification clause whereby holding the Federal Government (NAVY) harmless under the proposed contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the ARL at UH, including “additional indemnity provisions that may be proposed for specific task orders over the full course of the contract so long as the President, in consultation with the University General Counsel (direct report to the President) and the University Risk Management Director (Direct report to the VP of Administration who is a direct report to the UH President), conclude that the risk profiles of these future indemnities are similar to the risks profiles of the indemnities currently proposed by NAVSEA and deemed appropriate by the Board... the magnitude and likelihood of risk in a particular task order cannot be scaled back, mitigated, or accommodated by minor changes to the risk management program, the President following consultation with the University Risk Management Office and University General Counsel **MAY** bring the matter to the Board for specific approval or disapproval of the proposed indemnification.”

In order to earn ANY “trust” as Regent Wilson stated with UH students, employees and the public, this consent “ambush” must be fully and accurately vetted before allowing any blanket indemnification clause(s).

This means continuing BOR agenda item VII: C, to its October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board meeting at UH-Manoa. There is no compelling reason or rationale to justify a vote on this controversial request on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. As I have been part of the opposition since I was on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), I have witnessed the consolidation of power and control at our beloved PUBLIC institution of Higher Education between the BOR Chair and the UH President. This unhealthy, damaging, harmful and disturbing trend of power consolidation and corruption began with UH President Evan Dobbelle, continued with David McClain (UARC proponent and ultimate UARC establisher), followed by M.C. Greenwood and finally the worst political and power consolidation was over the last ten (10) year reign under David Lassner's regime.

I completely comprehend PI/President Lassner's motivation and manipulation of the ARL at UH and DoD contract negotiations and the consolidation of power with the Board of Regents Chair(s).

In the slide show I submitted to the BOR on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the draft UARC by PI/President Lassner states, *"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 are 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.**"*

Given these facts, the most pressing questions are: Will this non-transparent, unaccountable, self-serving and punitive regime continue to control the Board of Regents today? The first two (2) letters of INTEGRITY are IN. Each regent must decide, independently of others who promote, pontificate and vote with biases and blatant conflicts of interest (Please watch the February 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board of Regents meetings at UH-Hilo) on whether this specific consent "ambush" item is ripe for a decision-making vote, which will shackle future decisions by

Regents over the proposed ten (10) year extension of the UARC/ARL at UH contract(s) and continue the Dirty UH UARC. What are 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 as stated in the draft 2030 UARC/UH strategic plan and what is UH focusing its efforts on?

In the Executive Summary of the Dirty UH UARC, dated September 24, 2007, it states, “In 2001 plans were put in motion to establish a Navy University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) at the University of Hawai’i (UH), a classified government sponsored research laboratory and an open-ended conduit for military research funds. But deeply troubling allegations of fraud, abuse and mismanagement have come to light involving several Navy-funded research programs at UH and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai’i (RCUH) that were precursors to the UARC, casting a cloud over the present UARC contract. This report is an attempt to uncover the hidden story of the creation of UARC so that the public and decision-makers can fully consider the potential risks and *liabilities* of this endeavor (emphasis added). With the UARC contract coming before the UH Board of Regents September 27, 2007, we offer this report in an earnest and urgent attempt to inform the decision makers and the public about the troubled, and troubling origins of the UARC. We hope the Board will act prudently and responsibly based on this new information and the conclusions and recommendations set forth within the report. This report is based on *two and a half year investigation involving federal and state freedom of information requests, interviews and attempted interviews with key players, and background research about federal contracting, congressional appropriations and defense technologies. (emphasis added)*”

When this prudent and responsible Board continues this “ambush” consent agenda item to October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, members will have adequate time to read the extensive and accurate report to the Board of Regents submitted on September 24, 2007, entitled, “The Dirty Secret about UARC: ‘Military Pork’, Government Secrecy, and the Corrupt Origins of the University of Hawai’i UARC.”

In the comprehensive and compelling report, it states, “The saga of the scandal began as early as 2001 with two Navy grants to UH that have been embroiled in a Navy criminal investigation and an aborted \$50 million Research Corporation of the University of Hawai’i (RCUH) proposal to the Navy entitled ‘Project Kai e’e’ (meaning tsunami or tidal wave in Hawaiian), which was intended to become the UARC...The UARC was born from questionable contract activities involving Navy admirals, Naval research program managers, UH researchers, military contractors, high ranking UH and RCUH officials and congressional earmarked programs that have been the subjects of federal investigations. The suspicious circumstances surrounding the termination of the Project Kai e’e proposal and the UARC’s creation by sole source award of a monopoly contract have raised serious questions about the legality and ethics of the procurement. Furthermore, *government secrecy has denied the public access to contracts and financial information, thereby making it impossible to assess the legality of the UARC process and evaluate the risks and potential impacts of undertaking a UARC. To critics of the UARC, the obstruction of public information and accountability amounts to a de facto cover-up. Ironically, the secrecy masking the UARC’s troubled beginnings illustrate the dangers critics have warned about.* The criminal investigation stems from complaints filed with federal authorities in the summer of 2003 by a UH Facilities Security Officer Jim Wingo. Wingo is a whistleblower who accused Mun Won Fenton, an Office of Naval Research (ONR) program manager and the

Navy's designated "point of contact" for the creation of the UARC of '1) abuse of authority, 2) significant mismanagement of classified contracts, and 3) potential leaks of classified information, classified information lost, compromised, and unauthorized disclosure.' Fenton oversaw several military sponsored research grants and contracts to UH worth several million dollars."

Bullet points:

- N00421-01-1-0001/0176: awarded to UH in July 2001 for sensor integration research related to Theater Missile Defense. Initially valued at \$238,000, the grant was increased several times to a total of \$645,862. Electrical engineering professor Audra Bullock was the Principal Investigator (PI).
- N00014-01-1-0562: awarded to UH in March 2001 for research related to an advanced radar system called Ultra High Frequency Electronically Scanned Array (UESA) in the amount of \$246,375. The grant was increased to a total of \$1,462,7759 with a promise of an additional \$50,000 future funding. However, the project terminated early and \$9547.61 was eventually returned. UH professor Michael DeLisio was the initial PI, until electrical engineering professor Vassilis Syrmos took over after December 2001.
- N00421-03-C-0013: a contract awarded to RCUH in December 2002 related to "Sensor Integration and Testbed Technologies". The award was valued at \$1,163,028 with Vassilis Syrmos as the PI. It involved continuing research on the UESA radar, which was called the "Next Generation Radar".
- On March 2, 2005, the Ka Leo o Hawai'i newspaper broke the story that the Navy Criminal Investigation Service was investigating Fenton and several Navy grants and contracts with UH. It reported that funds granted to UH by the Navy were allegedly used improperly to prepare another RCUH proposal, which is now known to be "Project Kai e.e".
- The report goes on to state, "Fenton allegedly awarded a laser sensors research grant to UH electrical engineering professor Audra Bullock. The grant was allegedly part of a larger Tactical Component Network proposal, which was intended to initiate a working relationship between ONR and UH that could lead to an Indefinite Deliverable/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) capacity contract. The UARC is a sole source IDIQ contract.
- After the award of the initial grant, funds were added to the grant that more than doubled the award. Allegedly, Fenton directed Bullock to hire John Monacci as the program manager. As the Principal Investigator (PI) for the project, Bullock was supposed to manage the finances and personnel as well as oversee the research work performed.
- But Monacci reported that he actually worked under Syrmos and was managed by Fenton and Schultz. Monacci's job was to install a TCN system on several ships and units under Schultz's command, a project that matches the description of a congressional earmarked appropriation.



- Bullock said that several months later, Fenton instructed her to hire two others whose jobs were unrelated to her research project. According to Bullock, Fenton promised that the two individuals would be moved off the grant as soon as other funding came through.
- Bullock said that in her final report to her sponsors she indicated that she only directly oversaw approximately \$150,000 out of the total \$645,862 grant and did not supervise the work of the personnel that the Navy directed her to hire. UH refused to release Bullock's actual grant contract, reports or finances.
- At least four Navy-directed personnel were hired through the administrative services of RCUH, despite assurances from James Gaines, UH Vice President for Research and Graduate Education, said that it is improper for Navy sponsors to direct personnel decisions on grants to UH. RCUH records show that these Navy-directed personnel were paid from several different sources other than the grants for which they were hired. In some cases, the employment of these Navy-directed personnel under the original job description continued long after their grants expired.

#### Moving Towards UARC Secrecy and Deceptions:

Once Project Kai e'e was scrapped, (RCUH Director Harold "Masumoto") shifted gears to directly pursue the UARC designation. Recycling elements from Project Kai e'e, the UARC was outlined in a September 15, 2002 Powerpoint slide presentation by Masumoto and Syrmos entitled, "*University Affiliated Research Center (UARC)...SENSors Communications and Information Technology (SENCIT) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfare*". According to UH faculty who were briefed by **Syrmos**, the document was described as a presentation to "Senator Inouye's staff."

Plans for the UARC originated at RCUH. Under Masumoto the UARC plans moved swiftly. As early as March 6, 2003, **Syrmos**, who had been hired as RCUH's Interim Director of Science and Technology reported to the RCUH Board of Directors:

University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) – The proposal is 99% complete and the UHM approvals are in place to take it to next step which is for Admiral Cohen (Chief of Naval Research) to send it to NAVSEA to designate UHM as a UARC. It is hoped that the UARC will be in place by this summer. *Because a UARC functions as a trusted agent of the government, it operates under sole source, multi-task delivery of contracts to perform work primarily for Navy sponsors...Until UH changes its policy on classified research, such an activity has to be run through an organization like RCUH.* Creating a separate 501 (c)(3) type organization is another alternative.

At this same Board of Directors meeting, however, Masumoto reported that there was a potential conflict of interest situation involving several of RCUH's Navy-sponsored services contracts and research and development contracts. These potential conflicts of interest led to a significant reorganization of the Office Naval Research's service contracts along with more stringent prohibitions on organizational conflicts of interest.

In the summer of 2003, Fenton allegedly classified a number of projects at UH in an irregular and confusing way, which led to the forced removal of Syrmos from his projects. Meanwhile, Fenton was named ONR's "point of contact" for the UARC.

On May 13, 2003, Masumoto hinted to the RCUH Board of Directors that there were problems brewing:

Security Issue – We have a situation where a project started **as an unclassified project, but the Navy has now decided to classify it.** Issue of safeguarding the appropriate data and allowing access to cleared employees only in a secured facility.

### Irregularities in UARC Designation for UH

Opponents of the UARC point out that contrary to Federal Acquisition Regulations and Department of Defense guidance requiring competition in the awarding of UARC contracts, NAVSEA awarded the ARL/UH as a sole source procurement. UH officials (and a current BOR regent 2024 added) have made false statements claiming that the UARC procurement was competitive.

Furthermore, despite Freedom of Information requests filed nearly two years ago, NAVSEA has failed to provide the required justification and certification for the sole source procurement of the UARC to the University of Hawai'i.

Many of the unanswered questions about Project Kai e'e/UARC are similar questions today.

1. What was stated as the scope of work in the grants and contracts in question, and what work was actually performed on those projects? What work products were produced by those projects? How did the Navy-funded personnel spend their time?
2. How were the grant and contract monies spent? Were the expenditures proper?
3. What was written in the final Project Kai e'e proposal? Why was Project Kai e'e canceled? What happened to the Project Kai e'e documents?
4. Was there a determination of illegal, unethical or improper activities, fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement related to the programs in question?
5. Which research projects were classified? How and why were they classified?
6. Was the sole source award of the UARC designation to UH a proper and legal procurement? What is the documentation that the UARC procurement was legal and justified?
7. What knowledge did UH and RCUH officials have of the irregular activities in question? What was their response? What steps did UH and RCUH officials take to ensure the integrity of the research programs?
8. What support did members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation provide to these programs in question? What knowledge did they have about the questionable practices that took place? What steps did they take to ensure the integrity of earmarked defense programs in Hawai'i?

These questions and many more are relevant to the current operations, functions, procurements, chain of command, mismanagement of Federal and State funds, lack of required audits, authentic reporting, and accountability at ARL at UH, formerly known as UARC at the UH System. This would include the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC), renamed the Vanguard Center in Kihei. On my second slide submitted to the BOR on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, ARL at UH became the UARC in 2008. MHPCC/Vanguard Center was established in 1993, operated by the University of New Mexico (UNM) from 1993-2001 and became part of ARL at UH in April, 2019. Please apply all the question above to MHPCC.

9. Where are the structural, functional, operational and budgetary plans for MHPCC from 2001 to 2019?
10. Is the PI/President of UH currently negotiating a DoD NAVSEA contract that separates MHPCC from the control and authority of ARL at UH? If so, will the PI/President return to the prior model of authority and oversight before the ARL at UH shift of oversight and authority in April, 2019?
11. Is the PI/President negotiating with the DoD to create what then RCUH's Interim Director of Science and Technology Syrmos stated at the March 6, 2003 RCUH Board of Directors meeting, "Creating a separate 501 (c)(3) type organization is another alternative"?
12. Additionally, current VPRI Syrmos's September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Memorandum requesting the Board of Regents agree to indemnify the federal government as set forth in a proposed Award/Contract designated N00024-24-D-6402 to be issued by NAVSEA to the University of Hawai'i, states, "This multi-year contract has an initial performance period of five years, with a potential option to extend for an additional five years. The projected budget ceiling for the first five years is \$145 million and increases to \$290 million if the contract is extended for the additional five years. The contract will be performed by the UH Applied Research Laboratory (ARL)."  
These figures are considerably lower than original estimates of \$350 million over the first five-year extension with NAVSEA. It sparks the necessary and critical inquiry, will MHPCC be under this specific NAVSEA contract or any other DOD contract outside of ARL at UH?
13. Again, how was MHPCC structured and functional PRIOR to the ARL at UH move in April, 2019 and where are the accompanying and required documents pertaining to MHPCC covering the period from 1993 to April, 2019?
14. Was David Lassner the Principal Investigator/UH President/VP of IT on the DOD contracts regarding MHPCC prior to April, 2019?
15. Assuming David Lassner was the PI on any and all DOD related contracts performed by and through the MHPCC, how did the funding, oversight, budget, audit reports, procurements, financial requirements function and how were they operationalized and where are the documents of operation and function?

Approximately 60% of the ARL at UH's overall budget and task orders are performed by and through the MHPCC, thus the budget figures directly correlate with the removal of the MHPCC from this specific NAVSEA contract N00024-24-D-6402, which has a stated budget ceiling of

\$145 million, so it's imperative to review and dissect the NAVSEA contract currently being negotiated by the PI/President beyond the limited disclosure and approval of current and future indemnification clause(s).

The current regime does not allow BOR members to review, clarify, consult, discuss, elaborate, debate or dissect DoD contracts with the ARL at UH. The regime hides behind the VP for Legal Affairs flawed rationale and excuse that the BOR members are not attorneys. Even BOR members who are attorneys are not allowed access to these prior or pending DoD UARC contracts either through ARL at UH or any other undisclosed avenues. As stated in the Dirty UH UARC article cited above, even after years of FOIA requests at the state and federal levels, both UH and the DoD refuse to disclose most of their "military-academy industrial complex" practices, products and product development, and accounting of funding.

It is impossible to "follow the money" when the public is unable to obtain the necessary documents to "follow the money". This is particularly true with funding for MHPCC, where projects are classified or controlled unclassified information (CUI). In order to alleviate the enunciated security issues stated by Masumoto at the RCUH Board of Directors meeting on May 13, 2003, many of the MHPCC task orders are either classified or CUI research. It has been reported this number will increase and possibly become MHPCC's sole task order classification and the majority at ARL at UH in the next five (5) years.

As succinctly and accurately stated in prior testimonies opposing the initial UARC, the fears of UH becoming a "military-academy industrialized complex" have arrived without ANY oversight, accountability, transparency, inclusion, procurement and task order checks and balances, or funding audits.

How can the public hold this military-academy industrialized complex accountable for adverse health consequences pertaining to unknown and classified task orders performed by UH faculty and/or RCUH employees?

How will the public know and be reassured that the military-academy industrialized complex is not developing products, programming, energy and electromagnetic waves, lasers, space forces, imperceivable sound waves and other forms of weaponry to increase the DoD's lethality and ensure that the U.S. military remains the most potent and effective fighting force in the world?

How will the UH Board of Regents and the RCUH Board of Directors reconcile incompatible missions, goals and strategic plans with their unwavering commitment and dependency on the DOD contracts and funding?

When will both the ARL at UH and RCUH provide the total funding received through DOD contractual agreements and how expenditures and procurements were spent based on budgetary categories, such as equipment, salaries, fringe benefits, services, supplies, travel, and other.

When will the BOR require equipment, financial inventory audits of the ARL at UH and when will the RCUH Board of Directors require the same?

When reviewing the Pacific Missile Range Facility Land-Based Training and Testing (PMRF)'s current draft environmental assessment (EA), it states, "As a Major Range and Test Facility Base, PMRF is part of the designated core set of DoD Test and Evaluation (T&E) infrastructure and associated workforce components, which are national assets that must be preserved to support the DoD acquisition system", thus would the UARC at UH contract that purchases assets with DoD sponsor funds and sponsor ownership be preserved to support the DoD acquisition system?

If ARL at UH Director Edwards has control over the hiring and spending of the Prorated Direct Costs (PDC) and fee funding, what oversight, checks and balances, conflict of interest policies, equipment/inventory/financial audit mechanism are currently in place to ensure the BOR requirements for assessing and managing the University's **compliance, financial and operational risks** and the adequacy of internal controls, the accuracy and propriety of transactions, the extent to which assets are accounted for and safeguarded and the level of compliance with instructional policies and government laws and regulations?

Has this Board of Regents been briefed on the gross mismanagement of DoD funds at the ARL at UH over the past decade and the State of Hawai'i reimbursement funds used to correct the financial accounts?

When will the Board of Regents request the Director of Internal Audit to perform a forensic audit of ARL at UH?

One of the ARL at UH testifiers listed was Pat Cross who wrote about his WETS project, which is a wave generating facility that costs taxpayers over \$22 million dollars, but what is not mentioned is the huge contract WETS has with Makai Ocean Engineering that paid for expensive equipment and inventory. Where is the equipment and inventory now?

There are many examples of mismanagement of funds, equipment and inventory not to mention the glaring favoritism and corruption at the ARL at UH. The Board of Regents has the authority and responsibility to audit DoD expenditures because ARL at UH is NOT exempt, excluded or erased from internal audits as listed above.

Moreover, in distilling and dissecting the glossy and self-serving "presentation" made by VPRI Syrmos and not by the ARL at UH Director Edwards who was present at the Board committee meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the stated mission of ARL at UH is to "serve as a center of excellence for critical Navy and national defense needs by conducting research, development, testing and evaluation to address challenges and emerging problems. It has not and will not engage in weapons development or research." This statement of non-engagement with weapons development or research is unreliable, impossible to validate and confirm. Additionally, products, programming and intellectual property discoveries from specific task orders can easily be furthered developed into weapons for the warfighter and war profitters. (Oppenheimer)

In contrast, the U.S. Navy's mission statement states, "The mission of the Navy is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas." Given the fact that the majority of task orders at MHPCC are

classified or CUI, it's impossible to know what is truly happening except UH students and faculty's mission is not to equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars.

Based on PI/President Lassner's draft UARC/UH 2030 Strategic Plan, the dedicated and devoted mission is abundantly clear:

*We have a responsibility to gain full value FRO 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.*

In reviewing the stated core competencies of ARL at UH, "high performance computing" is NOT part of these core competencies.

In the UH news article, about MHPCC's award by the U.S. Air Force (NOT) the Navy (<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/05/01/maui-high-performance-computer-center-contract/>) it describes the purpose of the contract to provide essential engineering research and development capabilities in emerging computer technology and is intended to lower barriers to a modern High Performance Computing ecosystem and high performance computing-backed solutions. Another convoluted statement that doesn't describe the actual work nor give much background such as; what prompted the request for the work to be done, and in what tangible and articulable ways does the ARL at UH have the expertise to be awarded this sole source contract? If it assists the DoD with providing evaluating mass data information that will flush out potential information leaks on where and what DoD forces are doing, then ultimately, should UH be doing this work? Can this work also be exploited by DoD contractors that use the development to provide weapon grade technologies (companies such as Palantir Technologies)?

Furthermore, if patentable solutions come out of the task orders, does the UH ever benefit from these discoveries and how is that calculated, monitored, and processed with information that is accessible by the public? How many inventions or solutions has the ARL at UH notified the UH Office of Innovation and Commercialization on? It is interesting to note the amount of funding already awarded, probably the most of any extra-mural funded project, very little if anything goes through the UH Office of Innovation and Commercialization. Again, it's impossible to "follow the money" when the trail is disposed of, hidden and undisclosed, manipulated or "classified"/CUI.

Bullet Points of ARL at UH slides:

***\*ARL at UH task orders outline the same kinds of projects UH often undertakes directly under separate contacts, which requires more administrative effort than through ARL.***

This statement is misleading because if the DOD approaches a UH Researcher to develop a system and want to contract for this, they would be subject to UH Indirect Cost Rates (<https://research.hawaii.edu/ors/resources/rates/>). It would be 45.50% of the MTDC (Modified

Total Direct Cost) base if on-campus or 26% if off-campus. These funds are noted as Research and Training Revolving Funds (RTRF).

Normally, these funds are then used by the UH system, which divides the funding as follows: 25% to the UH President, 25% to the VP for Research and Innovation, and 50% back to the UH Department. The ARL at UH charges for a Task Order to the DoD sponsor a Prorated Direct Cost (PDC) currently at 38%, Fee currently at 5.4% and Indirect currently at 8%. These fees are calculated the same way as UH Indirect costs. The 43.4% goes to ARL at UH and not to the UH system. The guidelines on how these funds are to be used are stated on the UH Administrative Procedures A10.130 (<https://hawaii.edu/policy/docs/temp/ap10.130.pdf>). The ARL at UH Executive Director is responsible for how these funds are spent, *not* the UH system or the UH President.

The slides I submitted with my testimony on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to the UH Board of Regents highlight on page(s) 7-8 the ARL at UH funding diagram and the ARL at UH and NAVSEA Contract Control of the Funding that states:

Individual P.I.'s control 48.6% of the funding coming in on individual task orders. Example: Task Order is awarded \$1000, 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 & Air Force 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).

At the Board of Regents Internal Audit committee meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, I submitted written testimony and orally requested the BOR to conduct an independent audit of the ARL at UH. I have asked at prior Board of Regents meeting for an independent audit of the ARL at UH, especially as it relates to the MHPCC. The total funding of approximately \$65,968,000 must be accounted for and publicly disclosed, especially in light of the ARL at UH Director Edwards' cover-up of DoD funding mismanagement for over a decade, forcing a RCUH employee at ARL at UH to resign without proper representation, knowledge of labor law rights, due process, adequate and accurate reimbursement and without paying the non-exempt-status ARL at UH employee the overtime that was required, under 3.340 RCUH Overtime Compensation Policy, which states, "It is the RCUH policy to ensure compliance with the overtime provision of the United States Department of Labor's Fair Labors Standards Act. Overtime compensation is paid to non-exempt-status employees who record work and paid compensation time in excess of 40 hours in a workweek."

Violations of Labor Laws is an ongoing practice at ARL at UH primarily because the administration's mantra is, "Get the Task Orders Done on Time". The employees, without employment protections, are forced into working conditions that pressurize and prioritize

unrealistic and unhealthy production of DoD task orders. The employees are siloed and stressed out, so this non-exempt-status RCUH employee working at ARL at UH complied with the hostile working climate and administrative abuse and worked 80-100 work weeks for years. ARL at UH Director was both aware of this fact and exploited it. Eventually, after years of labor exploitation and utter exhaustion, the ARL at UH employee broke down and submitted to Ben Jones, ARL at UH Associate Director, a stack of evidence indicating how he “cooked the books” and paid for a long list of items, inventory, rent, and other categories out of his own hard-earned salary and made the necessary adjustments on the financial reports to the DoD. Both Ben Jones and Margo Edwards, ARL at UH top administrators, covered up the evidence and began an internal campaign of character assassination against the RCUH employee, purposefully misleading the employee so he eventually agreed to a final payout that was substantially lower than his entitlement. This is an example of unfair labor practices and one-sided settlements that preclude RCUH employees from filing all future claims against ARL at UH and RCUH. This “settlement” was signed by ARL at UH Director Margo Edwards and RCUH Executive Director Leonard Gouveia on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

They also refused to disclose the mismanagement of funds to the sponsor, DoD (NAVSEA), which is **required** because it would have **triggered an immediate audit** of the DoD funds for the last two (2) cycled contract periods(TEN YEARS). Additionally, this cover up was crucial because normally the DoD does an end of the contract (5 years) audit, but for some unknown (wink, wink) reason, the Department of Defense has NOT conducted the mandatory financial audit of the ARL at UH and NAVSEA contract, which ended a few months ago.

Instead, without these mandatory disclosures the DoD granted ARL at UH an extension to transition out of the expired NAVSEA contract and renegotiate the one listed in VPRI Syrmos Memorandum stamped by the Board of Regents office on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is the same Memorandum signed by the UH President, who is the PI on the “proposed Award/Contract designated N00024-24-D-6402 to be issued by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) to the University of Hawai’i. (University)”. It’s all so grotesquely insidious, corrupted cronyism and full of consolidated, tyrannical and ungoverned power.

Obviously, these are compliance issues that need an immediate, independent and trusted audit.

The blur between ARL at UH and RCUH employees is another part of the Dirty UH UARC. The State Legislature successfully tried to address these issues in Senate Bill 1511, but Governor Green vetoed it falsely stating, “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.”

As I stated in my September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 testimony, “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.” Favoritism and



Cronyism is thriving at the UH System, the ARL at UH and the RCUH without any morality, accountability, liability, integrity, transparency or fiduciary duty.

Currently, there is a pool of confusion that sucks in huge DoD funding and other extramural funding of “more than \$300 million in the last year alone”, but there is nothing provided by the ARL at UH regarding the approximately \$65,968,000 at the sole discretion of the ARL at UH Director Edwards and there are no line-item budget expenditures and extramural funding provided by RCUH Executive Director Leonard Gouveia. The interaction between the ARL at UH and RCUH is completely confusing, unaccountable, manipulated, corrupted and disheartening.

All MHPCC employees are RCUH employees through the ARL at UH, but RCUH employees are “at-will” employees and are not represented by a union.

Last month, RCUH wrongly terminated an ARL at UH employee without following proper due process, applicable labor laws, fair representation and credible evidence. It was a “witch-hunt”. The appeal is pending without any RCUH rules, regulations, or procedures in place to ensure a proper appellate process. Part of the as stated includes:

I am entitling this appeal: Farce, Conspiracy and Unconscionable Actions

From the start of this “investigation”, ARL and RCUH have been interchangeable in both the process and substance of all proceedings and decisions. This is why I use the word conspiracy to define the alleged investigative process.

At the very first interview conducted, I requested RCUH to be the entity that conducted and made the final decision, after a full and fair investigation. This did not occur. Rather, the ARL at UH employee contacted RCUH regarding my request and ARL at UH employee told me that RCUH would conduct the investigation **but would not allow me ANY representation during the process.**

This began the long list of procedural errors in the investigative process that I am appealing. Granted, this appeal is being reviewed and decided by the very entity that began the procedural errors so I have no doubt that RCUH will violate my employment rights during this appeal, hence the word farce.

During every step of the process, the person, representing ARL, indicated that **ARL was NOT involved in the interview questions and determinations regarding how the process was being conducted.** The ARL at UH employee stated that RCUH was in charge of everything including all questions being posed. The ARL at UH employee was always waiting on the questions from RCUH. ARL at UH employee also stated that ARL at UH chain of command were not part of the investigation. I challenge on appeal both the procedure and substance of this investigation.

I am requesting an independent third party arbitrator to review both the investigation and appeal process in order to maintain and protect my employment rights as both an ARL and RCUH

employee. I will provide a list of three names and RCUH and myself can choose the independent reviewer of my case.

The appeal review and decision must take into account a series of procedural and substantive violations of my due process rights, my employment rights and Federal statutes as they pertain to the Department of Defense (DOD) contracts and fiscal oversight and accountability, especially since ARL should be audited for various violations of said contractual obligations. These would include, but are not limited to, the ARL at UH employee's fabrication and manipulation of ARL fiscal accounts for over a decade and an end of the DOD contracts mandatory audit. Hence, I use the words unconscionable actions to describe what's been happening at ARL. The underlying problem also includes the collusion, corruption and conspiracy between ARL at UH, RCUH and ORS, along with the oversight and command orders from the UH President.

My appeal must be reviewed and decided by a fair, independent and honest arbitrator who will insist on being provided all documentation relevant to this investigation, which would also include any communications between the above mentioned entities and NCIS and the Defense Counter Intelligence Security Agency. There has been a concerted effort to intimidate me and manipulate this process, which has directly and adversely effected my health, any semblance of protecting my due process rights and the integrity of procedural and substantive investigations at ARL and RCUH.

The appeal process must include all my written responses during the investigation that continuously requested specific accusations by names, dates, and conduct in order for me to respond. Instead, I received little if any of the requisite information to engage in my defense or understand with any modicum of accuracy what I was being accused of.

The investigation mainly consisted of listing various policies, asking me about a disgruntled renter and refusing to answer any of my questions posed. All of these facts violated my due process rights and my rights as an ARL and RCUH employee.

It's pointless to repeat what I have been stating for months so I am requesting the incorporation of all of my written responses in the appeal review in order to overturn the ARL Director's decision.

This decision, like the entire rigged investigation, fails to provide the necessary findings of fact and application of policy in determining any violations, which would have provided me the basis for writing my appeal. This is yet another violation of my employment rights.

There is not any specificity in facts or policy violations that afford me the mandatory requirements necessary to base my appeal on.

Hence, the regime controls every aspect of the UH System, including Human Resources through VP Jan Gouveia, RCUH (including all Human Resources, hiring and firing of ARL at UH employees) through Jan's husband (Leonard) and the ARL at UH (VPRI Syrmos who conducted the "presentation" of the ARL at UH at the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 BOR meeting).

The consolidation of power is overwhelmingly true, vindictive, above the law, and protected by key political and private players and special interests. On the note of truth, UH Departments would benefit from getting a bigger cut of a larger indirect cost charge with a contract between UH and the DoD sponsor than 4% of the indirect charge through a task order.

***\*All ARL at UH task orders are included in the standard extramural reporting system***

This is true, but it fails to mention that if a task order is listed as CUI (Controlled Unclassified Information), Classified, or Top Secret, only the task order title is listed, general budget, P.I., and UH Department is put into the MyGrants system. The task order document is not attached due to the military designation of the work. Therefore, little is known about what is being proposed or work to be accomplished or timeline for completion. This is not like a proposal in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP), so a task order is included in the system but it does not include standard information from a federal solicitation such as the request for proposal, the proposal, itemized budget, certified letters of support from outside agencies that are assisting in the project, and Curriculum Vitae (CV) from the Principal Investigator and Researchers. The ARL at UH attachments are maybe 3-4 pages compared to a response from a federal solicitation which are double or triple the attachments and can be hundreds of pages in justification and submission.

***\*ARL at UH is one of a number of UH projects that are classified. Under decades-old BOR Policy, UH conducts classified projects only at off-campus locations in order to ensure an open academic environment. Individual Principal Investigators and staff choose whether or not they wish to engage in classified projects.***

The questions I keep asking over and over: Where and who is accountable to integrate, monitor and enforce this policy and if they are not followed or there is a violation, who answers to the DoD authorities, especially since very little information is included in the public record? Another aspect omitted in the narration, if violations are discovered and properly investigated and enforced, are there fines that UH would have to pay? How would these fines be paid? What accounts?

***\*UH has had the ability to engage in classified work over the past 4-5 decades***

This is a misleading statement, which is expected from the ARL at UH. The UARC, as explained earlier in this written submission is a sole source contract with the DoD and serves as a funding umbrella for task orders. Although there has been some classified work at UH over decades, can it be established that classified work is preferred and if this work is being pursued then there should include guidelines on the work that UH would deem permissible. Also, there should be a limit to the percentage of work that can come in as classified. Does the BOR support and encourage 100% of the work to being classified because that's where the money is?

***\*Ensure that essential engineering and technology capabilities of particular importance to the DoD are maintained.***

This statement is troubling. There is a certain military command mindset in ensuring that engineering and technology capabilities are to be maintained in support of the military mission. The University's mission and strategic plan are incompatible with the needs and goals of the US military.

***\*Offer a unique arrangement of basic and applied research technical expertise within one organization and are only approved by USD(R&E) and established after rigorous review and a competitive selection process.***

This is a violation of procurement procedures for most federal and state governments. Under OMB (Office of Management and Budget under the US President) policies, there needs to be an analysis and justification for procurement over \$10,000. The vast majority of these task orders are over \$10,000, with some of them being over \$1,000,000. It can be argued this makes it a sole source contract for development of services and/or equipment that the DoD sponsor directs to be done. Hence, once enacted, this can be a vehicle for the DoD sponsor to circumvent procurement requirements.

What a UARC is according to the ARL at UH "is a non-profit research organization affiliated with a university." The UH UARC and the ARL at UH do not fit this description. At other schools, UARCs have been set up as non-profit research centers. This is NOT true at UH and why it was suggested by VP Syrmos that forming a 501 (c)(3) was a viable option. ARL at UH Director Edwards has stated this also.

The Hawai'i State Constitution:  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Section 5. The University of Hawaii is hereby established as the state university and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all the real and personal property now or hereafter set aside or conveyed to it, which **shall be held in public trust for its purposes**, to be administered and disposed of as provided by law. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

***\*What a UARC is not according to the ARL at UH slide:***

"A UARC contract does not enable the Navy, the DoD or any military or federal agency to direct UH to engage in any research and development that UH does not want to engage in or agree to accept."

Without documented proof or a proposal for the work being accepted, how can this statement be verified and confirmed? If the only documentation is the task order document, it is questionable if for every task order, it is not directed by the DoD sponsor.

In the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, BOR Committee Chair, Lauren Akitake, asked VPRI Syrmos how this statement is proven to be true and he mentioned the faculty choose to do the work; they are not forced to. The penetrating follow-up question is how much of the work done through this DoD contract involves UH faculty?

Most of the work is done by researchers at ARL at UH or MHPCC, and all are RCUH Employees. Just a handful of task orders are done by UH Manoa faculty because of difficulties to conduct research off-campus.

***\*No project can be undertaken under the ARL at UH contract that could not already be undertaken by UH under a separate contract.***

This is yet another misleading claim. It would be almost impossible for a UH Manoa Department to get clearance to do classified work. In the bullet point in the next slide under Mission, it states there is a decades old BOR Policy that UH conducts classified projects only at off-campus locations.

So how does the UH define and designate sites like the Mauna Kea telescopes, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii, Haleakala telescopes and region and the Mauna Loa facilities? Are they part of the campus or off-campus locations?

I would define off-campus locations as locations where there is a contract or lease agreement for the work to be conducted there. If there are none, then they would be considered on-campus and therefore work is being done at these facilities for the DoD, which violates this statement, its tenets and the BOR policy.

***\*The ARL at UH does not broaden the scope of the R&D UH undertakes for the Navy DoD or other sponsors.***

This does seem to clash with the earlier statement that a UARC ensures essential engineering and technology capabilities of particular importance to the DoD are maintained. Without the direct involvement with UH Departments that are currently working in the specific areas, how is this documented and controlled?

Again, we are subjected to statements made by ARL at UH that will ensure and increase its existence within the system without documented proof, policies and procedures in place that define, monitor, ensure and enforce that this bold assertion of truth, is actually occurring.

***\*UARC authority makes contacting easier for UH and for the sponsor***

PI/President Lassner's Draft UARC UH Strategic 2030 Plan explains that both have a shared and merged mission. The top secret, classified and CUI designations streamline this articulated and troubling mission, to wit: to increase lethality.

***\*UH has multiple examples of work that it has undertaken both through ARL at UH or through separate contracts***

Another self-serving statement without any documented proof, articulated policies, procedures and evidence. The public is asked, once again, to trust the DoD operations, support the DoD mission and blindly have faith in the current corrupted military-academy industrialized complex.

ARL at UH Director Edwards and OVPRI Syrmos state there is a trail of examples proving ARL at UH does not take on work that it does not want to do. How can this unreliable assertion be proven on existing contracts? Is there a documented file of correspondence from the DoD

sponsors evidencing any exchange where ARL at UH employees refused task orders or declined to assist them?

Moreover, the ARL at UH Power point slides make NO mention of MHPCC. The UH News on May 1, 2020 announced UH was awarded a four (4) year contract via ARL at UH. This contract was for \$75 million dollars, is this funding included in the \$162,328,442 total awards stated in the slides?

How many research assistants or undergraduate students have been hired under MHPCC task orders?

Due to the very close proximity of the DoD sponsor (same building complex), how is it proven that “a UARC contract does not enable the Navy, the DoD or any military or federal agency to direct UH to engage in any research and development that UH does not want to engage in or agree to accept”? As stated earlier, MHPCC employees are RCUH employees with the exception of the PI/President and MHPCC Executive Director Tiare Martin who is a non-compensated faculty member of the IT Department at UH and she is paid through RCUH using funding from ARL at UH (so she really isn't a UH faculty member), and many of them are not governed by the UH statement.

The ARL at UH personnel that are Principal Investigators on task orders are “non-compensated faculty appointments” with the exception of its Director, Margo Edwards. Without continued DoD sponsorship and required task orders, they lose their funding and positions. This is the main reason why so many of them submitted testimony for the September 5<sup>th</sup> BOR committee meeting and ARL at UH “presentation”. This fact is unaffectionately known as “The DoD Dependency Dole”.

The only reassurance provided is by the Director and P.I. and it's difficult and almost impossible to believe and ascertain the truth, especially with the massive levels of conflicts of interest and personal gains of power, money and control.

Why hasn't there been safeguards, evaluations, assessments, monitoring, and enforcement by a neutral third party to provide and publish findings regarding this statement and practice, especially since this is a “sole source” contract and neither MHPCC nor ARL at UH on O'ahu is responding to Requests for Proposal (RFP) or writing a proposal to the sponsor NAVSEA for the work?

Notwithstanding the PI/President Lassner's statement that MHPCC received the “largest extramural project in UH history”, MHPCC has remained under the accountability and audit radar.

What are the precise net financial gains received by UH and what are the applications, products and benefits to the university students, employees and the public?

The applications being developed at MHPCC for DOD sponsors, what exact safeguards, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms are currently in place to prevent these developed applications from being involved in simulated war games or proposed tactical battle planning?

Earlier in 2024, ARL at UH Director Edwards assured the ASUH students that the ARL at UH is not developing weapons or sensors for the DoD, but once the product or programming or technology is delivered to the DoD what verifiable proof and evidence is available to determine whether the DoD is modifying, selling, or advancing its stated purpose for the further development of advanced weaponry?

One of the ARL at UH slides included the “Commitment to Academic Freedom”, which quotes from then-President David McClain’s 2007 presentation to the UH Board of Regents. In paragraph two (2), then-President McClain wrote about assessment of risks and the question of balance and stated, “...the concerns of some on the campus—perhaps even a majority—that all must engage in activities congruent with the majority’s particular *perception* of the university’s mission, values and strategic plan.”

Then, as now, it is NOT a perception of the university’s mission, values and strategic plan, rather it IS the university’s mission, values and strategic plan. NOWHERE in any of these various university documents will you find the allowance and congruency with the Department of Defense military contracts being performed through and with the only PUBLIC University in Hawai‘i. In fact, they are incongruent with UH’s mission, values and strategic plan (2023-2029) that was unanimously approved by the BOR on November 17, 2022. It states:

### **Mission Statement**

**“With a focus on creating a healthy and thriving future for all, the University of Hawai‘i provides broad educational opportunity for all as the higher education destination of choice in the Pacific that nurtures the personal success, leadership capacity and positive engagement of every resident of Hawai‘i. It engages in world-class research, scholarship and service that promotes the welfare and sustainability of Hawai‘i’s people and environment while achieving global impact by enriching the fundamental knowledge of humankind. Woven through all it does is an appreciation of and commitment to Indigenous Hawaiian people, culture, values and wisdom.” (Emphasis added)**

### **Foundational principles**

#### **Hawaiian Place of Learning**

*UH champions the principles of aloha, caring for people and place, as we integrate Hawaiian language, culture, history and values across the institution and its work.*

#### **Statewide Need**

*The UH System’s primary responsibility as the only public provider of post-secondary education is to support the needs of the state of Hawai‘i.*

#### **Diversity and Equity**

*UH System upholds its commitment to provide higher education opportunities for all, especially*

*those historically underrepresented including Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, economically disadvantaged, first generation, LGBTQ+, rural and students with disabilities—as well as continue to diversify its faculty, staff and leadership.*

### **Sustainability**

*UH recognizes its responsibility to the ‘āina through its own practices, through education, and by developing solutions to the complex global challenges of climate change, sustainability and resilience.*

### **Stewardship of Resources**

*Including facilities, processes and human resources—UH will align institutional resources with the goals of the strategic plan.*

### **Imperatives**

- *Fulfill kuleana (responsibility) to Hawaiians and Hawai‘i*
- *Promote successful students for a better future*
- *Meet Hawai‘i workforce needs of today and tomorrow*
- *Diversify Hawai‘i’s economy through UH innovation and research*

### **Imperative: Fulfill kuleana to Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i**

#### **Goal**

*Model what it means to be an Indigenous-serving and Indigenous-centered institution: Native Hawaiians thrive, traditional Hawaiian values and knowledge are embraced, and UH scholarship and service advance all Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i.*

#### **Objectives**

- Ensure that UH supports the success of Native Hawaiians in learning, teaching, service and research across our campuses and nurtures Native Hawaiians as leaders.
- Create opportunities for all UH students, faculty, staff, executives and regents to inform their work by learning about Hawaiian language, culture, knowledge, and the past and present impacts of colonization.
- **Play an active role in the reconciliation of injustices, advancing language parity, and improving the lives of Native Hawaiians across the islands.**

#### **Metric**

- Support the Hawai‘i Papa o Ke Ao Leadership Council in creating a detailed plan as an update to the *2012 Hawai‘i Papa o Ke Ao Report* in consultation and collaboration with the Pūko‘a Council and others throughout the university. The detailed plan to achieve this imperative and these objectives will be presented to the Board of Regents within one year of the adoption of this plan.

### **Imperative: Promote successful students for a better future**

#### **Goal**

*Educate more students, empowering them to achieve their goals and contribute to society.*

#### **Objectives**



- Increase participation in post-secondary education statewide.
- Provide necessary support for student success, including addressing barriers to access, basic needs (such as food and housing insecurity) and holistic health and wellness.
- Fully deploy multiple modalities of instruction that recognize changing times and widely differing student preferences, needs and goals.
- Provide innovative learning experiences that prepare students to achieve their personal and professional goals, while fulfilling their kuleana to people and place.
- Improve campus infrastructure to promote a vibrant, inclusive and safe environment on campuses across the UH System.

### **Metrics**

- Number of degrees and certificates awarded, including industry-recognized credentials, disaggregated for underrepresented groups.
- Increase the number of returning adults and those enrolling in distance/on-line programs.
- Social/economic mobility index or survey results of alumni perception of success after graduation.

### **Imperative: Meet Hawai‘i workforce needs of today and tomorrow**

#### **Goal**

*Eliminate workforce shortages in Hawai‘i while preparing students for a future different than the present.*

#### **Objectives**

- Prepare professionals to fulfill statewide needs in occupations that are essential to community well-being including education, health, technology, skilled trades and sustainability/resilience.
- Enhance non-traditional offerings, including micro-credentials serving needs of specific groups of students, and industry-certified credit and non-credit credentials, for those seeking upskilling or career change opportunities.
- Partner with employers to ensure the necessary preparation and support for students to succeed in their careers.
- Prepare graduates for life-long learning, innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### **Metrics**

- Size of workforce shortages in key sectors/occupations (e.g., teacher shortage).
- Number of students with work-based learning, entrepreneurial and research experiences, and internships with a preference for paid internships.

#### **Goal**

*Imperative: Diversify Hawai‘i’s economy through UH innovation and research goal  
Build and sustain a thriving UH research and innovation enterprise that addresses local and global challenges by linking fundamental scientific discovery with applied research necessary for technological innovation to create jobs and advance a knowledge-based economy.*

#### **Objectives**

- Build out and sustain research and innovation hubs in key areas: climate resilience, energy and sustainable ecosystems; ocean, Earth and atmospheric sciences; astronomy and space sciences; data sciences and global cybersecurity; health and wellness; food security and agriculture; the Asia-Pacific and Hawai‘i.
- Leverage intellectual diversity and Indigenous innovation.
- Generate intellectual property and spin off startup companies that create high-quality jobs.
- Advance meaningful engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.

### Metrics

- Amount of extramural and philanthropic funding, including in identified hubs.
- Number of active licenses and options.
- Number of UH spinoff companies and jobs created.

UH 2023-2029 Strategic Plan: <https://www.hawaii.edu/strategic-plan>

In order to address the inherent and long-standing colonization, militarization and exploitation of Native Hawaiians and their natural and cultural resources and, in keeping the UH 2023-2029 Strategic Plan alive and accountable let us review a few publications.

In 2008, four (4) well-respected Native Hawaiian scholars published an article entitled, “Teaching Amid U.S. Occupation: Sovereignty, Survival, and Social Studies in a Native Hawaiian Charter School.” (Noelani Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua, Willy Kauai, Kaleilehua Maioho, and ‘Īmaikalani Winchester)

[https://kamehamehapublishing.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2020/09/Hulili\\_Vol5\\_5.pdf](https://kamehamehapublishing.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2020/09/Hulili_Vol5_5.pdf)

The article states, “The authors argue that educating youth to think critically and speak out about social issues impacting Hawaiian lands and communities is crucial to nurturing a healthy lāhui Hawai‘i. Vigorous political engagement, informed community participation, and a commitment to aloha ‘āina are hallmarks of a vibrant Hawaiian social body.”

It further states, “When we say we are ‘teaching amid occupation,’ we refer not only to the prolonged illegal occupation of Hawaiian national territory by the U.S. state and its military. We also draw on the layered meanings of the term occupation to signal the continuing social, economic, cultural, and spiritual impacts of an American way of life and national consciousness on our lands and people. Despite the temporary loss of a functioning aupuni, or governing apparatus, the lāhui survives. The collective imaginary formed through our people’s historical, cultural, and genealogical connections remains. However, the lāhui is not a stagnant entity, always already in existence. It takes a tremendous amount of individual and collective cultural work, both psychic and material, to sustain a lāhui amidst continued occupation and onslaught by U.S. imperial forces, including its military and corporate mass media culture. These multiple forms of occupation aim to structure our relationships to our ‘āina and to each other in ways that are violent and unhealthy, both in the short and long term. The manifestations suggested here include (a) the occupation of our collective cognitive, emotional, and spiritual health; (b) the

occupation of the realm of economic possibility; and (c) the occupation of intellectual production and mass media representation of the islands and our cultures.

Additionally, “Once the U.S. military stepped in to support the sugar oligarchy in usurping control of the lawful Hawaiian government, formal political control of the national education system was wrested from the Hawaiian Kingdom, and governance of public instruction became wholly centralized, a phenomenon that continues in Hawai‘i to this day. In 1896, the self-proclaimed “Republic of Hawai‘i” passed a law mandating that all instruction in schools, both public and private, be given in English. The law absolutely cut schools off from public funding and recognition if they taught in Hawaiian (Lucas, 2000). For the bulk of the 20th century, under prolonged U.S. occupation, there wasn’t a single school in the islands that made the indigenous Hawaiian language or culture central to its curriculum until the advent of Hawaiian language immersion schools in the 1980s. Instead, public schooling took on the function of naturalizing U.S. occupation, cultural assimilation, and capital expansion, much like in other U.S. imperial territories.”

Furthermore it states, “Finally, it is important that a critical Hawaiian-focused social studies interrogate what we call the occupation of intellectual production and mass media representations. This is an occupation that aims to stifle vigorous political debate and to shrink the possibilities of thinking and acting as *nā po‘e aloha ‘āina*. Signs and symptoms of the occupation abound. Two recent instances illustrate this point and serve as examples of current events that have proved fruitful for investigation and debate in the classroom. In the first example, the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Board of Regents voted in September 2007 to approve a contract with the U.S. Navy to set up an Applied Research Lab, commonly known as a UARC (University Allied Research Center), despite long-standing protests from major UH constituent groups. The 3-year agreement will fund the lab, likely focusing in areas such as astronomy, oceanography, advanced electro-optics systems, lasers, remote sensing detection systems, and communications (Cole, 2007). The UH administration argued that the agreement would bring in millions of dollars of funding. However, people within the university community raised opposition based on concern about weapons and restricted research, as well as about the incompatibility between the goals of such a facility and the stated mission and vision of the university, as early as 2 years prior. In 2005, community protests against the UARC included a lock-in at UH’s Bachman Hall administrative offices, and the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i, the University of Hawai‘i Faculty Senate, and the Kualī Council—representing Hawaiian programs on campus—all passed official resolutions opposing the UARC. **20 Despite a commitment to a transparent process that would keep all groups informed, the UH administration buried the issue from public scrutiny and then slipped the decision in 2 years later, without including the UH community and the larger public in the process or giving adequate notice to allow for meaningful public comment and debate when the contract was suddenly up for discussion again.** In studying the UARC case, students could be asked to think about the purposes of public education and knowledge production. They could be called to think beyond simplistic economic reasoning (i.e., “we need the money”) and to think about the implications of “classified research.” They might also be asked to historicize the University of Hawai‘i as a land grant institution or its location on national lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom.”

The authors conclude, “In our own homeland, where temporary residence of a prolonged occupation pollutes our perception of truth and fallacy, of identity and nationality; where foreign authorities claim the legitimacy to assess our cultural visions and missions; where economic dependency ensnares our political, economic, and educational independence; where purportedly ‘rigorous’ educational standards dictate the ways we teach our children; where a C-minus president can prescribe the educational whitewashing of a separate and illegally occupied Hawaiian nation;<sup>27</sup> on our own homeland, **Hawaiian culture-based education is literally under the gun**. Yet we continue to fight. Not with arms but with edification. Not with bombs but with our leo. Not with hate but with aloha.”

*The words of illegal occupation have been spoken and written for so long that in 2019, the world stage was set with people of all backgrounds who gathered to protect, preserve, and pronounce Kapu Aloha (Dr. Manulani Aluli-Meyer, “He Kapu Aloha” handout, Mauna Kea (2019) protocol for Mauna Kea as, “sacred mountain, sacred conduct”. This kapu was fundamentally complied with based on respect, reverence, reciprocity, and responsibility. Thee momentum of the ea movement transcended mere identification and stratification as classifications, generalizations, characterizations and constructs of blood quantum, political status and identity.*

Critically, it was unification, kinship and relationships that formed the basis of solidarity in purpose, place and peoples that converged as sacred accords of pono<sup>3</sup> in stark contrast to colonial coherence’s extension as continuous tools to separate, segregate, denigrate, humiliate, and harm individuals and the collective lahui. It’s foundational to identify, rectify, and re-emerge from inheritances of fabrications that fractionalize, demoralize, pathologize, institutionalize, and marginalize traditional and customary practices that reunite & reclaim natural resources as cultural resources for spirituality, functionality, relationality, nation(ality) and sustainability as sovereign & independent stewards. Without proper recognition, legal protections and higher consciousness, we can expect the frivolously perverted distortion that has been reduced to fleeting orchestrations and prefabrications in shadows of unexamined rhetoric and ridicule leaving fragile fragments of totality’s possibility on darkened floors of dense, stagnated platitudes amplifying the clamor of false identification and disingenuous pontification that wastes the void left for authentic curiosity and bold bravery in the pursuit of imaginative & necessary reorientation; the precursor for regenerating and co-creating new growth, cultivation, and maturation from the bowels of intergenerational trauma, drama, dharma, regression and repulsion. Hence, propelling individually and collectively, through the conscientious, considerate, and compassionate reframing of EA to include ki ho’iho’i kanawai’s (Pualani Kanaka’ole-Kanahele, et al., “Kiho’iho’i Kanawai: Restoring Kanawai for Island Stewardship” [http://nomaunakea.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/2/2/102246944/kanahahele\\_kihoihoi\\_kanawai\\_final.pdf](http://nomaunakea.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/2/2/102246944/kanahahele_kihoihoi_kanawai_final.pdf)) universality of application, integration and identified belonging as kanaka stewards, especially during the huluhia of interruption and intervention to neutralize historic, structural, institutional, and systemic patterns of conduct that epitomize power, control and domination that continues to evade accountability, authenticity and accuracy of lived experiences and existence as survivors of genocidal and ethnocidal practices of extermination, enslavement, eradication, erasure, & exploitation. (Pukui & Elbert Dictionary/Glossary of Hawaiian Terms: pono (righteousness,

goodness & well-being); kanaka (human being); huluhia (to turn; to change); ea honua (sovereign earth); aloha aina (deep love of the land or of one's country))

Prior to contact in 1778, Native Hawaiians practiced traditional and customary connections to natural elements and deities that increased abundance, diversification and longevity on Ea Honua. These sustainable and thriving connections were deeply severed with rapid changes to the geo-political, socio-economic, and legal frameworks that dyed & casted indigenous peoples as wards of federal and state governments, incarcerated many because of their refusal to comply with newly imposed policies, laws and world views that criminalized their identity, as well as their traditional practices of language, culture, dance, chant, medicine and spirituality. (Sally Engle Merry, *Colonizing Hawai'i: The Cultural Power of Law*, Princeton University Press (2000).

At the time of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy through the necessary U.S. Military presence of force in 1893, it is estimated that less than 5% of the indigenous people's descendants remained alive from original contact with the colonized world in 1778. (David Stannard, *Before the Horror: The Population of Hawai'i on the Eve of Western Contact*, University of Hawai'i (1989).

This is a staggering sobering, and somber fact for most people, but not for the U.S. Department of Defense and its military presence, control and legacy in Hawai'i. Native Hawaiians are not along in the pain and suffering caused or related to the U.S. Military in Hawai'i. The bombing of Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor), martial law that was followed with the Japanese internment camps in Hawai'i, secret excavation of Kapukaki (Red Hill) for jet fuel storage, a proliferation of U.S. military installations throughout Hawai'i, the bombings of Kaho'olawe, the bombing and active firing at Makua Valley, the dumping of toxins in Makua Valley, the military training in Waikane Valley, the initial acquisition and expansion of Pohakuloa, the Air Force fuel leak on Haleakala, and countless dumpsites in Hawai'i. Hawai'i bears the highest percentage of military impact among all the 50 states, the military has been an unconscionable and legally DoDging polluter to the lands and waters of Hawai'i.

According to the Department of Defense Environmental Working Group, the most contaminated sites in the United States are in Hawai'i, with Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam listed as the highest contaminant tested, detected and confirmed. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Star-Advertiser Editorial Board in its "our View" article stated the following:

*After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, debris from the bombed Navy facility and waste from the war effort went to a dump site nearby: Makalapa Crater, now the site of Radford High School. Military records show that as many as 1,000 trucks daily hauled debris from the harbor to the crater, where Navy operated a salvage yard and waste dump, burning refuse and burying the rest. That's now a problem for the students and faculty at Radford High, where leftover Navy detritus-including vessels and vehicle parts, weapons casing and unknown quantities of toxic materials-lies buried under athletic fields and parking lots. The risk of toxic and hazardous materials under Radford's lower campus has been apparent to the military for more than a decade now-at least since*

*2013, when Radford began renovating its running track and fields, exposing waste from the dump that include concerning levels of arsenic, lead and mercury.*

It further states:

*This is where the Navy, Department of Defense (DoD), Hawaii's congressional delegation and the DOE must come in. From these bodies, it's high time for a leader or leaders to emerge to demand USACE accelerate this process...It's incumbent on the DoD to infuse USACE with a sense of urgency, and Hawaii Congressman Ed Case, who represents Pearl Harbor, must assist in pressing for this. The Navy touts its 'deep and abiding relationship' with Radford High, named after Navy Adm. William Radford, must also step forward, if not out of legal obligation, then for honorable reasons...It all would be laughable, except that this slow-rolling crisis has negatively affected class after class of Radford students, along with their teachers. For many years now, they've deserved better.*

Past and present dangerous toxins, forever chemicals, unexploded ordinances, jet fuel, and other pollutants must be addressed by the DOE and at UH. Hiding behind a UARC and ARL at UH is not the legacy that should be bestowed on the very students who pay for the operations of the university. Unfortunately, this legacy and "blue print" are ones designed and left by the late Senator Dan Inouye.

In a UH press release dated May 31, 2001, entitled, "University of Hawai'i Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Contract for Maui Supercomputing Center." Then-President Kenneth Mortimer stated, "The University of Hawai'i appreciates the Air Force's vote of confidence and we look forward to this opportunity to fulfill the vision of Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Through this project we will be able to simultaneously meet critical national defense requirements and advance the university's research enterprise in emerging technology areas."

The article also states, "The University of Hawai'i team for the Maui Supercomputing Center consists of UH, Boeing Rocketdyne Technical Services and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) along with the Ohio Supercomputer Center, New Mexico Tech and Textron, David Lassner, UH director of information technology and principal investigator. PI David Lassner stated in 2001, "Our approach was to try to understand the Air Force requirements, assemble the best team possible, and prepare a plan and proposal to meet their needs."

Additionally, "Boeing, a major defense contractor, operates the Maui Space Surveillance System (MSSS), the other major Air Force research & development facility on Maui. SAIC, one of the country's leading information technology contractors, has the most extensive experience in business development for the Maui Supercomputing Center. The center is home to some of the country's major high performance computing resources. The new IBM 'huinalu' cluster was unveiled in February as the most powerful Linux Supercluster in the world. Overall, the center is ranked in the top 20 supercomputing sites in the world and is the second most powerful supercomputer in the Department of Defense."

The late Senator Dan Inouye stated, “I am most pleased that the University of Hawai’i has been awarded this supercomputer contract by the Air Force. It has long been my hope that the University play a greater role in concert with the Department of Defense in Hawai’i in utilizing the supercomputer for the benefit of its faculty and students. The presence on Maui of a new world-class telescope at MSSS and a world-class supercomputing center offers tremendous opportunities to advance the frontiers of scientific inquiry and positions Hawai’i at the forefront of high tech research and development.”

One year later in 2002, The Chronicle of Higher Education published an article by Ron Southwick entitled, “Pentagon Backs Away From Strict Controls on Basic Research.” It stated, “After sharp criticism from researchers, the Department of Defense is revising proposed rules that would have required academic scientists doing military research to obtain approval before publishing or discussing their work at scientific conferences. The Defense Department is still drawing up new rules to protect sensitive technologies, a key military official said this month.”

As previously mentioned, the brave students at ASUH unanimously passed Senate Resolution 06-24: Demanding the University of Hawai’i No Longer Serve as a University Affiliated Research Center. In the resolution’s third “WHEREAS”, it quotes the 1961 farewell speech by President Eisenhower:

*In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist...the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, 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 is gravely to be regarded. Yet in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to the equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific technological elite.*

Clearly, the Dirty UH UARC has become exactly what President Eisenhower warned Americans about.

Also, for the military-academy industrialize complex and the privatization to continue to thrive and increase, it is critical for the current regime to manipulate the search process for the next UH President. After reading through the current September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Memorandum to the BOR from VPRI Syrmos and his April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Memorandum to the BOR entitled, “Requesting for Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), to Receive a Sponsored Research Award to the Vanguard Center to Support the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC)” it is crystal clear the secret plans of succession. In the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Memorandum from VPRI Syrmos, the request is made that the BOR authorize the Vice President for Research and Innovation to agree to other indemnification obligations that may be requested during the course of the VaCUUMS award. Please note the glaring conflict of interest in the request.

A mere 53 months later, VPRI Syrmos is now requesting similar indemnification authority but not for the VPRI, which is Syrmos himself, rather for the future UH President. Why the change in authority and authorization? The reason cannot be the fundamental conflicts of interest this regime is famous for, so it must be the behind closed-door game that allow our current UH President to be the interim UH President.

Hence, there's something cooking (like cooking the books at ARL at UH) that would favor VPRI Syrmos to become the Interim UH President after either a failed search or some other shenanigans by this regime.

From its secret inception, the Dirty UH UARC has been controversial. UH administrators and some BOR members learned how to become "stealth" in maneuvering around and under the public and student proverbial "radar", a common DoD practice.

On July 10, 2013, the Honolulu Civil Beat (CB) published an article entitled, "Mysterious Navy Research Lab at University of Hawaii is Up for Stealth Renewal". It accurately stated:

*When the University of Hawaii signed a contract with the military five years ago allowing the U.S. Navy to develop a controversial research lab within UH, a key stipulation was that the results **would be publicly available**. But the university and Navy have disclosed few details about the research conducted over the course of the contract. And UH officials appear poised to sign off on a new agreement that would seal the deal on another five years before the public gets a chance to chime in...UH and Navy officials won't discuss what goes on at the lab. There's talk on campus that the anticipated \$50 million total federal funding never came through, **but it's difficult to conclude how much revenue the research has actually produced because neither UH nor the Navy has released documents detailing its finances. An outstanding public records request from UH Professor Emerita Beverly Keever has gone unanswered despite assurances from a university spokeswoman that none of the research is classified. Meantime, university officials didn't answer inquiries from Civil Beat regarding the lab, including why Keever hasn't gotten a response to her requests. "Everyone's in the dark, and that's the way UH likes it," said Keever, who on Monday wrote an op-ed for Civil Beat about the topic and her unsuccessful efforts to obtain details on the current contract. "As long as we don't know the nature of it and where it is, we don't even know what to be concerned about...it's just a big black hole." Keever pointed to past contracts the university has held with the military, including one in the 1960s, in which the U.S. Army was given permission to **test Agent Orange** as an agricultural station on Kauai. That track record, Keever said, makes information about the current research arrangement all the more relevant to Hawaii's residents.***

Critics have urged the Board of Regents to request a report of the lab's first five years before an administrator signs the next contract. But the lab isn't on the board's agenda for its July 11 meeting, and official won't yet say whether it'll be up for discussion at the board's July 18 meeting.



Other than the new timeframe, the upcoming contract won't be different from the current one, according to UH Spokeswoman Lynne Waters. But critics say the contract's subtle renewal-if the Navy even plans on co-signing it-would mean the university is falling short of its duty to stay accountable to the public. "The current attempt by university officials to sneak the almost non-existent UARC back into life is so outrageous and so unethical that the community and university faculty and students should rise up in outrage," said former UH Professor Joel Fischer, who participated in protest against the lab when plans were first announced... When plans first emerged in 2003, the proposed laboratory was the target of unusually vehement protests. Students and faculty held a seven-day sit-in and sleep-in and nighttime vigils, while national news highlighted the historical significance of the proposal. The last time the Navy built a laboratory on a university campus, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education's Kelly Field, was during World War II. According to Keever, the funding agreement was in large part attributed to the late Sen. Dan Inouye, who helped convince the Navy that UH offered a strategic location for a military research lab. The proposal was announced amid widespread concerns among stakeholders ranging from Native Hawaiian advocacy groups to UH Manoa officials who said the lab represents an egregious breach of the university's core values, according to Keever... Kitty Lagareta, who chaired the Board of Regents between 2005 and 2007, said she and other regents approved the plan on strict conditions, including that none of the initial research be classified, and after long-drawn-out consultations with stakeholders. She said regents also called for a review of the lab's research after a few years. "An agreement's an agreement," she said. "The university ohana as well as the public are probably deserving of some sort of a recap." Faculty Senate Chair David Ericson told Civil Beat the group **supports the Navy-related research as long as its results are publicly available**. He noted, however, that the faculty Senate will continue to ask questions about the arrangement if the president's office renews the contract. "*The search for truth depends entirely on transparency*," he said in an email. Still, Keever said her inability to obtain even basic information proves that **both the Navy and university have been secretive about the lab since the get-go**. "The faculty Senate was very clear that the point of research is to spread your discoveries with the free flow of ideas and information," Keever said. "But there's censorship built right into that contract."

The Civil Beat article exposed the Dirty UH UARC as it was up for its first "stealth renewal" in 2013. As Beverly Keever so aptly stated, "the Navy and university have been secretive about the lab since the get-go... But there's censorship built right into that contract."

Returning to the report submitted to the BOR in 2007, the Dirty UH UARC was initiated under a false pretense and secretly morphed behind "closed doors", which became its Modus Operandi. The report stated:

Despite clues that the Navy investigation involved many of the same research programs and actors as the UARC, the **media has not probed this connection**. When asked to explain what the investigation was about and how it was related to the UARC, **UH administrators either refused to answer questions or gave evasive and misleading responses. As a result, the public has not gotten a complete understanding of the UARC's shadowy origins**. James Gaines, the UH Vice President for Research told the Honolulu Advertiser "I've checked on the UH end to see if we're clean on this, and it's my opinion we are." 2 Yet he offered no further explanation. In January 2007 UH President McClain declared, "The UARC under negotiation is

not a derivative of project Kaiee.” **3 Requests for information about the actual contracts in question have been denied by both UH and RCUH, while numerous Freedom of Information requests to the Navy are still pending.** It has now been substantiated that the Navy research contracts under investigation were part of a plan to secure a \$48 million contract named Project Kai e‘e, which in turn, was intended to evolve into the UARC, a permanent military research institution imbedded within the University of Hawai‘i. **Key figures behind the UH-Navy research programs in question were also driving the genesis and evolution of the UARC.** The irregularities and questionable elements of the Navy’s UARC procurement cast doubt over the legality of the UARC. The evidence suggests the UARC and the UH-Navy research scandal are symptomatic of a bigger problem.

The National Missile Defense Act of 1999 – the so-called Cochran-Inouye Bill that was nicknamed the missile defense “blank check act” by anti-nuclear activists – passed overwhelmingly in Congress. Seemingly in anticipation of such an opportunity, since the mid-1990s Senator Inouye had pumped hundreds of millions of dollars worth of installation improvements and research funding into programs to resuscitate the languishing Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on the western tip of Kaua‘i. <sup>4</sup> As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, he was able to do this through a steady stream of earmarks tacked on to annual Defense Appropriation Bills. On July 27, 2000, Inouye announced that he had successfully secured Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Appropriations totaling \$150.5 million for PMRF programs. This included \$10 million for “CEC improvements”, \$11.5 million for “Theater Missile Defense new sensors”, \$10 million for “UESA signal processing”, and \$10 million for “Tactical Component Network demonstration”. <sup>5</sup> These programs represented research and development for missile defense programs as well as for the futuristic computer-networked battlefield weapons systems envisioned by the Pentagon and would be central to the emerging scandal involving UH and the Navy. The fact that “CEC” and “Tactical Component Network” appeared together in a Hawai‘i appropriations package is noteworthy because these were rival technologies. “CEC” refers to Cooperative Engagement Capability, a network software platform that was developed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU-APL), one of the Navy’s four existing UARCs. The CEC was originally developed for coordinating and integrating sensors and weapons for AEGIS-class ship-borne missile defense systems, but it evolved into the main platform for networking ever more complex and diverse forces in a battlefield environment. The military contracted defense industry giant Raytheon to build CEC systems. Together, JHUAPL and Raytheon had a virtual monopoly on the Pentagon’s network centric warfare systems development.

Several engineers from the Johns Hopkins CEC program left to start the Solipsys Corporation and developed what in the industry was considered a better solution to sensor networking and integration. They called their invention “Tactical Component Network” or TCN. Solipsys, with offices in Maryland and Kaua‘i, was angling to compete for contracts to develop the next generation of network centric warfare systems. According to some experts in the network centric warfare field, the CEC was antiquated and plagued with interoperability problems. It utilized too much bandwidth and was limited because of the specialized hardware it required. The TCN was reportedly superior to CEC, because it could be installed onto a personal computer right out of the box and managed data much more efficiently using an approach similar to the World Wide Web. This made Solipsys a threat to the Johns Hopkins, Raytheon and the Navy procurement

bureaucracy. Navy procurement officials who had already sunk billions of dollars into the development of CEC systems were not receptive to the new technology that would upend their plans. Furthermore, JHU-APL was the designated technical advisor to the Navy for matters affecting the selection of new missile defense technologies. Given the high stakes for Johns Hopkins and Raytheon, it is not surprising that Solipsys could not gain favorable recognition for TCN, much less a foothold in the Navy's procurement system. The "UESA" or Ultra-High Frequency Electronically Scanned Array is a type of advanced military radar system used with the E-2C Hawkeye advanced warning aircraft. UESA was also an important component of a network centric warfare system. Senator Inouye had previously appropriated millions of dollars for development of a UESA testbed on Kaua'i. The Department of Defense budget justification documents indicate that these budget items were Congressional "Plus-up" funding, in other words, items that were not requested by the Department of Defense. The entry of \$9,659,000 for "CEC Preplanned Product Improvement" included work "to develop and demonstrate next generation CEC capability to various 7th Fleet assets, including Essex (LHD, CTF-76), Blue Ridge (LCC,CTF-76), and an AEGIS platform (CTF70) along with ground units from the Marine Corps (CTF-79)." 6 The elements of the Defense funding package hinted at big plans afoot that would soon impact the University of Hawai'i. With the election of George W. Bush as President of the United States in 2000, missile defense became a top administration priority. The confluence of factors generated a powerful, yet barely perceptible swell of militarization that was speeding towards Hawai'i...

Meanwhile, another UH electrical engineering professor Michael DeLisio said he was asked by his former student Robert Swisher to submit a grant proposal to ONR for research on the UESA radar project. Swisher worked at PMRF under Fenton at the time. On August 28, 2000, DeLisio submitted a grant proposal for "CEC Antenna Miniaturization / UESA Switch Module Development" to the Office of Naval Research (ONR). 7 On March 1, 2001, ONR awarded research grant N00014-01-1-0562 "CEC Antenna Miniaturization / UESA Switch Module Development" to the UH College of Engineering in the amount of \$246,375. The purpose of the grant, which was to end on August 31, 2003, was to "Develop microwave and radio-frequency components for the Navy's radar systems." The influx of ONR funding to UH research programs coincided with a major expansion of the ONR presence in Hawai'i. In April 2001, ONR opened its Greater Mid-Pacific Branch Office in Hawai'i that was heralded as "the first of its kind in the United States." 8

The Hawaii Navy News photograph of the office grand opening painted a telling portrait of the powers and relationships behind Project Kai e'e and the UARC. The photo depicted Fenton standing next to Senator Daniel Inouye, their shoulders touching, as Inouye and Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander In Chief Pacific Fleet untied the ceremonial maile lei. Rear Admiral Jay Cohen, Chief of Naval Research, stood behind Fenton and reached out his hands towards Fenton in a reassuring fatherly gesture. In an email to colleagues in May 2001, Fenton, who was still an employee of Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), reported: RADM Cohen has promised me core funding lines in Missile Defense at ONR (6.1 and 6.2). So this may be a way to come up with funds for Talon Sabre ACTD [Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration], even if it is small. Also, he has agreed to ALL my demands for the job (I was shocked actually) so it looks like I will become an ONR employee afterall...9 The Talon Sabre exercise she referred to was the military code name for a demonstration of a new network centric warfare system called the

Modular Command Center (MCC). The Modular Command Center utilized the previously mentioned Tactical Component Network (TCN) network software.

As the Technical Director for this new office, Fenton oversaw a sizable portfolio of military grants and contracts with UH worth millions of dollars and wielded considerable power over the researchers of those projects.

RCUH: “little accountability and oversight”

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) and particularly Harold Masumoto, then Executive Director of RCUH, were key partners in ONR’s emerging plans. At the June 1, 2001 RCUH Board of Directors meeting, Masumoto reported “RCUH’s assistance is needed by the Navy for missile program project at PMRF because of the classified nature of the work to be done.”<sup>10</sup> Established by the State legislature in 1965 to support research activities at UH, RCUH was exempted from various state laws governing procurement and personnel in order to provide more flexible and expedient administrative and financial services than a typical state agency could perform. Many UH researchers utilize RCUH to handle personnel and fiscal administration of their research grants. While this fulfilled legitimate and important functions for UH researchers working in a fast-paced and competitive research environment, RCUH also acquired the reputation of being a fiscal “shell game” and a “slush fund” for projects beyond public scrutiny and accountability. The **1993 State of Hawaii Audit of RCUH confirmed this perception with a scathing report: Our audit found that RCUH is an independent organization that operates with little accountability and oversight by either the university or its Board of Directors.** An underlying problem is that the university and RCUH have not defined clearly their respective responsibilities for contracts and grants. By law, RCUH is attached administratively to the university, but the university has yet to decide what control it should exercise over RCUH. Since the federal government holds the university accountable for any deficiencies in grant administration by RCUH, we believe the university should have more oversight and control over the corporation to protect the integrity of its research contracts and grants program.<sup>11</sup> [emphasis added]

In response to the critical 1993 audit, UH and RCUH signed an Internal Agreement, June 28, 1996 that supposedly established clear lines of accountability.

## The Team

Allegedly to avoid unwanted attention or resistance from Navy officials hostile to the controversial TCN technology, Fenton assembled a research team through the University of Hawai‘i to quietly test and develop the MCC and TCN in Hawai‘i. Allegedly, the long-term plan was to establish a multifaceted network centric warfare research program and test facility at PMRF. Evidence suggests that Fenton allegedly funded, then used the fiscal and administrative cover of two UH research projects to channel funds and personnel to her projects and conceal her overall scheme from opponents in the Navy. RCUH’s fiscal and personnel administrative services for these grants provided an additional layer of cover. The evidence also suggests that personnel hired on UH grants at Fenton’s direction were actually headquartered at or coordinated by the ONR office at the Pacific Missile Range Facility. On RCUH employment documents, these team members listed as their business telephone number “808-335-4909”, which was the number for the ONR office at PMRF. Prior to joining the team, one team member staffed an

industry briefing at PMRF related to a NAVAIR contract solicitation notice and listed the same number as her contact telephone number. Later when RCUH submitted the Project Kai e'e proposal pursuant to the very same NAVAIR solicitation, this ONR number was listed on the proposal for the RCUH Technical Point of Contact. On April 25, 2001, Fenton wrote to Swisher: John Monacci will be joining our team as the program manager for the MCC project, working for Chuck Caposell. He is currently a NAVSEA [Naval Sea Systems Command] employee but as soon as he retires, he would like to work for U of H and then become an IPA [Intergovernmental Personnel Act]. However, until he retires, he will assume the PM [Program Manager] position so we can leverage him now. Would you mind facilitating John with the University so that we get the paperwork moving?<sup>12</sup> According to her email, Fenton recruited Monacci, a 30-year veteran of NAVSEA, to manage the Modular Command Center project. Under the IPA program, federal or non-federal employees such as university faculty could be "loaned" to another federal agency to meet professional services needs of the agency. Fenton's email also suggested that she arranged for Monacci to be hired by the University of Hawai'i, only to be loaned back to ONR to manage the MCC project. MCC was a new network centric warfare system that utilized the TCN network centric warfare software platform as its "backbone architecture".<sup>13</sup> It was the brainchild of Rear Admiral Paul S. Schultz, who from June 2000 to March 2002 was Commander, Amphibious Group ONE – a combined job of Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet; Commander, Task Force Seven Six (CTF76); and Commander, Maritime Prepositioned Force Seventh Fleet .

#### The Admiral and the "CEC vs. TCN" battle

According to Monacci, it was Admiral Schultz who called the shots. "Schultz controlled everything... Fenton followed his direction," said Monacci. "Whenever she went to Okinawa [where Schultz was stationed], she'd come back with new instructions and the plans would change."

An ambitious and passionate advocate of expeditionary network centric warfare, Schultz saw great potential in Tactical Component Network (TCN) and apparently tried to use the UH research programs to establish such a system in Hawai'i. But Fenton and Schultz may have also had a more personal stake in the success of MCC. Although Fenton or Schultz did not return calls, several persons close to both of them alleged that the two were having an affair at the time. At one point, a UH researcher who received funding from Fenton alleged that Fenton asked this faculty member to baby-sit Schultz's children so that the couple could travel unencumbered to Kaua'i. This UH faculty member refused. Since Fenton was responsible for funding Schultz's project, if the allegations are true, it raises ethical and legal questions about possible conflicts of interest.

Captain Terry C. Pierce, the Deputy Chief of Staff Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet under Schultz's command, wrote an award-winning article in the May 2002 Proceedings, the US Naval Institute journal about TCN and praised Schultz's role in championing the TCN technology. According to Pierce: [Schultz] attempted to work with the surface Navy to field the Modular Command Center and assess the TCN technology in an operational environment, but fearing a threat to the CEC acquisition program, the surface community turned him down. With support from interested congressional leaders and the Office of Naval Research, Admiral Schultz and his

staff were able to put the MCC to sea in fall 2001. Working diligently but quietly, he successfully tested MCC with TCN during predeployment work-ups in the fourth quarter of 2001. 14 Pierce saw the potential of TCN as a “disruptive innovation” to revolutionize war fighting and believed that it was superior to the more established rival system - Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC). However, because of the entrenched Navy, academic and corporate interests behind the CEC platform, Solipsys and TCN were locked out of the procurement loop. This was unacceptable to Pierce who argued: “We cannot waste time winding our way through an archaic acquisition process that rewards the status quo. If TCN is to succeed, its potential must be brought into the open and into direct competition with CEC.” Pierce’s article was a call to arms, inciting senior military leaders to “revolt” against “an acquisition process that stifles free thought and crushes new ideas—a process, quite simply, that rewards bureaucrats and insider business interests and punishes innovation.” Fenton and Schultz apparently were leading the charge against such an idea-crushing acquisition process. In a confidential May 10, 2001 email entitled “CEC vs. TCN”, Fenton asked Monacci and Solipsys founder Warren Citrin to prepare a briefing packet for Chief of Naval Research Admiral Jay Cohen. Fenton wrote: I will need to get this to [Admiral Cohen] before Rob Holzer prints the article. I have put [Holzer] off for now (and promised him an exclusive) but we only have a couple of weeks to get RADM Cohen briefed. If I don't let him know what's [sic] happening but hears about it in the papers, my career at ONR will be over. I am hoping that John will have briefed McGinn within the next couple of weeks and I am planning to brief VADM Dyer also within the next couple of weeks. Also, RADM Schultz will let VADM Metzger and Mullen know what is going on. If he doesn't before the article shows up, then HE will get fired for sure. So, the second item is, PLEASE HAVE ROB HOLZER hold the article until we had a chance to brief or send an advanced copy to Cohen, McGinn, Metzger, Dyer, and Mullen. We have to give them a heads up or else, again, RADM Schultz and I will be looking for contractor jobs... 15 Monacci prepared a Powerpoint presentation for Fenton to brief Cohen on the history of the rivalry between the CEC and TCN systems. The presentation stated that “RADM Paul Schultz (CTF 76) and Ms. Mun Fenton (ONR) receive technical brief about TCN at Solipsys Kauai office in Sept 00 – Both express immediate understanding of TCN potential for network-centric operations.” 16 But the presentation noted that in November 2000, officers in NAVSEA were “directed to permit no contracting for any efforts related to TCN.” “Disguise the disruptive innovation” Fenton and Schultz apparently tried to disguise their plans. A reviewer of Pierce’s book on disruptive innovation summarized what appears to be the theory behind Schultz’s and Fenton’s actions: Pierce’s major thesis is that the catalysts for disruptive innovation are senior military officers. How these officers manage the disruptive innovation process is key. He shows that they establish small groups to define the tasks that must be carried out to conduct a new form of warfare, ensure that like-minded officers are promoted, and most intriguingly, disguise the disruptive innovation as merely improvements to existing modes, in order to avert ruinous opposition from entrenched interests. 17 Pierce praised Schultz as a Navy leader who dared to champion the new and disruptive TCN technology even if it meant going up against entrenched Navy interests and bureaucracies. Schultz developed his own application of TCN called the Modular Command Center (MCC), which received significant earmarked funding from Senator Inouye, as much as \$12.75 million for FY2003. 18 Pierce reported that with TCN as the backbone architecture and key support from Senator Inouye and the Office of Naval Research, Schultz conducted a successful field test of the TCN. 19 His source for this information was Fenton. These field tests of the MCC utilized the TCN platform “disguised” as “CEC Preplanned

Product Improvements”. Working under UH Electrical Engineering professor Vassilis Syrmos and managed by Fenton and Schultz, Monacci said his job was to install a TCN system on several ships and units under Schultz’s command including the USS Essex, USS Blue Ridge, and an AEGIS cruiser along with ground units from the Marine Corps and to test the system at PMRF on Kaua’i. As program manager for the MCC program, Monacci helped to organize the elements of the Talon Sabre demonstration, which was included in the “CEC improvements” mentioned in Senator Inouye’s press release for FY2001. But Monacci said he grew increasingly concerned because the whole operation seemed to circumvent proper Navy procurement procedures. Theater-wide Ballistic Missile Defense (NAVAIR Grant N00421-01-1-0001/0176) Sometime in 2001, Fenton finally contacted Bullock to follow up on her grant proposal. According to Bullock, Fenton asked her to modify her research proposal to be a part of a Tactical Component Network proposal. Fenton explained that the grant was intended to initiate a working relationship between ONR and UH that could lead to an Indefinite Deliverable Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) capacity contract. Under the Bush administration, the government’s use of noncompetitive federal contracts, and especially IDIQ contracts, increased dramatically. A 2004 Report of the House Committee on Government Reform requested by Rep. Henry Waxman found that in FY2003 43,131 federal contracts worth \$107 billion, and representing 37% of all federal procurements were awarded without full and open competition. The report noted an alarming increase in the use of IDIQ contracts, the same type of contract proposed for Project Kai e’e and the UARC: In addition to the increase in contracts awarded without full and open competition, the Bush Administration has also increased its use of a form of anticompetitive contract known as the “single-award indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity” contract. Under these contracts, the government commits to purchase an undefined range of goods or services from a single contractor, precluding competition and effectively making the contractor a monopoly provider. In FY2003, the Bush Administration issued 15,800 of these monopoly contracts worth \$5.9 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion (40%) compared to the final year of the Clinton Administration.

On July 1, 2001, the day that Evan Dobbelle took over the reins as UH President from Kenneth Mortimer, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) awarded grant N00421-01-1-0001/0176 - “Theater-wide Ballistic Missile Defense: Study of Integration of Optical Sensors for Theaterwide Sensor Networking” valued at \$238,000, to the UH College of Engineering, with Audra Bullock as the Principal Investigator (PI).<sup>20</sup> In the initial grant, Bullock was responsible for researching sensor networks for the TCN.

Although NAVAIR was the sponsor of the research grant, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) administered the contract. ONR makes its own grants and contracts, as well as administers many federal grants and contracts from other Navy branches with educational and nonprofit institutions. According to Monacci, defense appropriations for research and testing often are channeled to ONR, which in turn transfers the funds to another branch like NAVAIR to be awarded through a particular research program. Many times, ONR retains the administration and close supervision of the grants or contracts. However, as the sponsor of the award, NAVAIR maintains the responsibility for the performance of the funded projects. This appears to have been the case for Bullock’s grant, as well as for a number of the research grants and contracts involved in the Project Kai e’e / UARC scandal. These kinds of complicated arrangements that made it difficult to track down the actual documents through the Freedom of Information Act. According to Bullock, the contract was modified several times. At one point there was a

complete change in the contract number, hence the dual suffix: 0001/0176. It is unclear which suffix was originally assigned to the Grant and which was the modification. Vicki Fuhrman, the NAVAIR contracting officer for this grant, said that Bullock's grant number was changed because the Navy found that it was a duplication of another grant or contract number. Fuhrman did not explain how such a mix-up could have occurred in a system that generates thousands of unique identification numbers to track each contract. According to Bullock, around the spring or summer of 2003, a number of pieces of information in the grant were classified. John Monacci Fenton allegedly ordered a number of questionable personnel actions involving at least two Navy research grants awarded to UH, including directing the hiring of several individuals on grants to perform work that was unrelated or only peripherally related to the specific purposes of the grants. Furthermore, it appears that Fenton herself was involved in supervision, personnel decisions and even directing research activities over which the principal investigators of the grants had little or no oversight. Soon after the Theater-wide Ballistic Missile Defense grant was awarded, according to Bullock, Fenton instructed her to hire Monacci onto the grant, which she did. Although the grant was awarded to UH, Monacci was listed as an RCUH employee through the service agreement between UH and RCUH. Documents obtained from RCUH show that John Monacci was employed by RCUH on Audra Bullock's grant from July 20, 2001 to January 26, 2002 as a "Tactical Combat Control Manager" for "Theater-wide Ballistic Missile Defense" at a monthly salary of \$10,471. Monacci's job description states that he was hired as "a liaison between the University of Hawaii and the Office of Naval Research in providing technical leadership in the installation and integration of ship and air combat systems and their subsystems". The minimum qualifications required included "Knowledge of Tactical Component networks and Naval weapons systems including AEGIS weapons systems. Able to obtain DoD Top Secret Clearance." 22 According to James Gaines, UH Vice President for Research, it was highly unusual and improper for a federal grant manager to direct personnel decisions on research grants. However, it seems that RCUH changed its own personnel policies to accommodate Fenton's plans. On June 26, 2001, RCUH had amended its personnel policy to create a new category of employee called "Directed Appointments", which was defined as "an essential member of project and is a condition of the contract/grant as specified or approved by the sponsoring agency." Bullock said that she was under the impression that Monacci was to perform research on the grant; however Monacci turned out to be more of a program manager than a researcher. So Bullock continued to work with her students on environmental and ranging sensors that could be used in Theater Missile Defense. Monacci said that he naively believed that his role was to devise a way for UH to bridge Bullock's research and the missile defense program. However, although he was still listed as employed on Bullock's grant, he actually worked on a research project headed by Vassilis Syrmos and was managed by Fenton and Schultz. According to Monacci, these kinds of projects usually go directly to a private contractor, but in this instance it was run through UH because it was supposed to benefit the university. As the Principal Investigator (PI) for the project, Bullock was supposed to manage the finances as well as oversee the research work performed. But according to Monacci, **"Audra Bullock didn't oversee anything." Monacci said Bullock was "a very nice person" who was "naïve to how Fenton was using her." He said, "I really believed that this was going to help kids in Hawai'i, to create jobs so that they could stay in the islands." But in the end he too felt that he was just being used.** Several months later, Bullock said Fenton instructed her to hire two others from the Pacific Missile Range Facility: Debby Gatioan and John Grandfield. At the time, Bullock expressed concerns to Fenton's group about being directed to hire additional employees



whose contributions to the project were not directly apparent. Further, Bullock was concerned that she did not have sufficient funds in the grant to pay two more people. Bullock said that Fenton promised that Gatioan and Grandfield would be moved off the grant as soon as other funding came through. Both Gatioan and Grandfield were employees of RCUH under Bullock's grant. UH records show that there was a modification to Bullock's Grant in July 27, 2001 adding \$309,862 to the award. On June 25, 2002 there was another modification adding \$100,000 and extending the Grant until May 31, 2003.

### Debby Gatioan

Debby Gatioan was a former employee of defense contractor Oceanit Laboratories. RCUH employment documents show that Gatioan was hired September 27, 2001 as a "UESA Administrative Specialist" for "UESA Testbed" at a monthly salary of \$3523. However, Audra Bullock's grant dealt with laser sensors, not the UESA radar. Prior to joining Audra Bullock's grant, Debby Gatioan was also listed as a point of contact for an industry briefing at PMRF related to NAVAIR Broad Agency Announcement N00421-01-R0176. This is same solicitation in response to which RCUH later submitted the Project Kai e'e proposal. The telephone number listed for her was "808-335-4909", the number of the ONR office at PMRF. On August 11, 2006, Gatioan was contacted at PMRF where she was employed. When asked about her employment as the "UESA Administrative Specialist" she said that she did not have anything to do with it and that she was only a "support contractor" for RCUH. "There's all kinds of investigations going on. I don't want to talk," said Gatioan. She refused to answer any questions unless she was subpoenaed. John Grandfield John Grandfield was hired by RCUH October 29, 2001 as an "UESA Electrical Engineer" for the "UESA Radar Testbed Project" at a monthly salary of \$11,874.79. His employment agreement also listed Bullock as the PI, but his job seemed to have nothing to do with optical sensors. Granfield was contacted on June 14, 2006 at North Star Scientific, his current employer. He confirmed that he was the UESA Engineer. Grandfield said that although he was listed as employed on Bullock's grant, he was actually supervised by **Syrmos**. He called it an "odd arrangement". Grandfield said he was employed on Bullock's grant for a year before he actually met her. Grandfield also confirmed that he was the technical point of contact on the final Project Kai e'e proposal. But he maintained that he worked on the proposal on his own time. Later he moved over to work on the HEATx Project, another Navy UESA radar program that was housed at RCUH. Citing the Navy investigation, Grandfield declined to be interviewed. He said "Come talk to me in 10 years." Then added, "You'll find out things you wouldn't believe. You could write a book."

"Get lost"

Monacci confirmed that Fenton and Schultz intended to establish a track record for UH and RCUH in preparation for applying for a much larger, multifaceted research contract. He also The Dirty Secret About UARC 14 verified that they were assembling a research team of people whom they trusted and could control.

"But they couldn't control me," Monacci insisted. As a veteran of the Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) program at NAVSEA with decades of experience in government procurement, Monacci was very familiar with what he called "normal procurement procedures". He found the

procurement and personnel procedures at UH and RCUH highly irregular and deeply troubling. According to Monacci, Schultz wanted him to hire another person onto the team, Lt. Commander John Iwaniec, a Navy associate and a retired mine warfare specialist. Monacci refused, believing such a request to be improper.

Monacci said that when Fenton learned that he was asking questions, **she got Syrmos to pressure him to hire Iwaniec. "I told [Syrmos] to get lost,"** said Monacci. In retaliation, he said "They drew the iron curtain around me." Monacci was cut off from information and eventually funding. At one point he received an impersonal notice from **Syrmos** stating that he had been terminated. Bullock confirmed that around December 2001 conflicts arose between Monacci and Fenton. Fenton demanded that Monacci be fired, and at her direction, Monacci was terminated. Soon after Monacci's departure, James Wingo, the UH Facility Security Officer (FSO), called Bullock to ask about Monacci's employment. Bullock referred him to Fenton, but Fenton denied any involvement in Monacci's employment or termination. She referred Wingo to Chuck Caposell, a contract manager at NAVAIR. According to Monacci, Caposell "ran the money" for Fenton.

Ultra High Frequency Electronically Scanned Array (UESA) (Office of Naval Research Grant N00014-01-1-0562)

The UESA Radar system is a key component of the E-2C Hawkeye advanced warning aircraft. The system is also part of missile defense and network centric warfare systems. Documents acquired through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) show that on March 23, 2001, the Office of Naval Research awarded Grant N00014-01-1-0562 "CEC Antenna Miniaturization / UESA Switch Module Development" to the UH College of Engineering in the amount of \$246,375, with an additional \$466,384 of future funding promised. There were at least ten known modifications to the grant. The ONR Technical Representative on record was MonWon Fenton, and the Principal Investigator was Michael DeLisio. On September 17, 2001, the UESA Grant was modified and an additional \$51,000 was added to the grant award. On November 28, 2001, the Grant was amended again and the award increased by \$415,384. Although DeLisio took an extended leave from UH in December 2000, he remained the Principal Investigator (PI) until December 10, 2001. At that time he was **replaced as PI by another UH electrical engineering professor, Vassilis Syrmos. Syrmos remained PI until September 2003, when Audra Bullock was appointed to be the PI during the final month of the grant from September to October 2003.** On July 17, 2002, Modification P00004 was signed. It stated: "The purpose of the modification is to expand the research." The nature of the expansion was not described. An additional \$750,000 was added to the grant award, with another \$50,000 in future funding promised. The deadline was extended from August 31, 2003 to October 31, 2003. But on September 12, 2002, with the issuance of Modification P00005 the Navy classified the project. And a week later, on September 19, 2002 Modification P00006 added new classification specifications. This time period corresponds with a major shake up in the MCC and Project Kai e'e plans, which will be discussed further below. The alleged mishandling of classified information was the event that triggered the initial complaint to Federal authorities. Then, on August 18, 2003 and October 14, 2003, a time period corresponding with the beginning of the Navy investigation, Modifications P00007 and P00008 documented that Fenton had been replaced by a new Technical Representative Gerard G. Wallis. These modifications attached new classification specifications to the Grant. The Grant referenced three versions of the

Contract Security Classification Specification Form DD-254 that were supposed to be attached to the Grant, but these documents were not provided by ONR. Without these documents it is impossible to know exactly what security instructions were attached to the Grant. From the Navy documents acquired through FOIA, it appears that the last \$50,000 installment was cancelled. And an excess of \$9547.61 was “de-obligated” and returned to the Navy on May 6, 2004. There were a number of other documents referenced in the Grant that were not provided by ONR in the FOIA release. These included several reports that were required by the Grant: a Performance/Technical Report with SF298, a Final Technical Report with SF298, a Report of Inventions and Subcontracts – DD882 and a Final Financial Status Report – SF269A. These documents were specifically requested in follow-up FOIA requests.

John Iwaniec

Apparently, when Monacci refused to hire Iwaniec on Bullock’s Grant, **Fenton directed Syrmos to hire Iwaniec on the UESA project. Although Syrmos insisted that he did not take direction from Fenton, he admitted: We were directed by the Navy to hire him as key personnel.** Mr. Iwaniec’s employment under this grant was for one year from Dec. 2001 to Nov. 2002. Mr. Iwaniec showed up a week after I took over the project.

Iwaniec said that he knew Schultz only in a professional capacity and would not comment on how he was recruited and hired for the job. He referred inquiries to Harold Masumoto.

RCUH documents show that on December 19, 2001, John Iwaniec was hired as a “Program Manager, Mine and Undersea Warfare” at a monthly salary of \$9015. Iwaniec’s job description included “providing project collaborators with **technical guidance in the development of a multisensor state of the art undersea warfare command** (sic) and control system. Will assist in test planning for exercises that will demonstrate the effectiveness of the new sensor integration tools being developed.” It is not clear what, if anything, Iwaniec contributed to research on UESA and CEC antenna miniaturization. When asked about Iwaniec’s contribution to UESA engineering, **Syrmos replied that Iwaniec “was very good at interfacing with the Navy.”** Iwaniec said that he was responsible for establishing a network connecting the mountain top UESA facilities with mobile devices at PMRF. He said that he was supervised by Rich McSheehy, an engineer working under Fenton who was on loan from Lincoln Labs to ONR. Iwaniec supervised a team of contracted workers from Oceanit corporation. Iwaniec complained that he couldn’t understand why his project was shelved when his was the only portion that was completed on time while the work on UESA switches (**Syrmos’ project**) was behind schedule.

If a big wave comes in...”: Project Kai e’e

The central figures behind the UESA and MCC/TCN grants – Fenton, Schultz, Monacci, Masumoto and Syrmos – **were involved in much larger plans to establish a Pacific-wide research center and test range for missile defense and network centric warfare operations, testing and development. The original concept was named Pacific Operations Institute. It later became the Pacific Research Laboratory. This concept eventually evolved into the controversial UARC.** However, they needed to build UH’s capability and credibility in order to seek such a grandiose contract. The two grants to UH for Missile Defense and UESA were being used to demonstrate capacity and prepare another larger proposal called Project Kai e’e. Project Kai e’e, which means tsunami or tidal wave in the Hawaiian Language, was a **secretive RCUH**

**proposal submitted in response to Navy solicitation N00421-01-R-0176. Project Kai e'e was characterized by Fenton as a "capacity contract".** Project Kai e'e was submitted in response to a Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) N00421-01-R-0176 "Sensor Integration and Communications Technologies" that was posted February 21, 2001. The solicitation notice stated that the objectives of this **joint Navy, Marine Corps and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency initiative were related to network centric warfare systems: to explore new concepts through emerging multi-sensor integration or adaptive data communications technologies, create adaptations to better suit the needs of the warfighting community**, certify the sustainability and safety of candidate systems, and promote those systems through the procurement process. The solicitation sought proposals in three areas of interest: (1) "New Operational Concepts for using sensor integration or sensor communications including systems that can be integrated with aircraft, weapons, UAVs and robots", (2) "Technologies that advance the state-of-the-art in performance and suitability of theatre-wide or tactical sensor integration and communications" and (3) "Systems Integration and Demonstration Testing." **The Project Kai e'e proposal apparently sought to take advantage of and expand upon the geographical and technological assets already in place or in development at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kaua'i.** On April 20, 2001 NAVAIR sponsored an "industry day" on Kaua'i for bidders interested in submitting a proposal for N00421-01-R-0176. Industry days are commonly held by an agency soliciting proposals to provide technical background information to prospective bidders. In this case, the briefing focused on the UESA testbed at the Pacific Missile Range Facility. One of the points of contact listed on the notice for this "industry day" was Debby Gatioan, who would later be employed on Bullock's research grant. Gatioan's contact telephone number on the notice was the same business telephone listed on the RCUH employment roster and on the Project Kai e'e proposal itself. With a March 1, 2002 deadline for proposals, Fenton and the team she had assembled worked on the overall research center concept and the capacity contract proposal that would eventually be named Project Kai e'e. Around August 2001, Monacci drafted the original concept of a **multifaceted military research center, which he entitled the "Pacific Operations Institute"**.<sup>23</sup> The theme of this institute was "*Applying DoD Operational Expertise to National Needs in the Pacific Arena*" through "A Partnership of Federal, State, Civil, Industrial and Academia Organizations". An August 19, 2001 draft of a Powerpoint presentation by Monacci listed the **initial participating organizations as Pacific Missile Range Facility, UH, RCUH, Maui High Performance Computing Center, State of Hawaii Economic Development Board, the Office of Naval Research, as well as defense contractors Orincon, Solipsys, and SAIC.** A later draft, **emblazoned with the UH and RCUH logos**, added an Alaska component that included the Kodiak Air Force Base, University of Alaska, Artic (sic) Supercomputer Facility, and State of Alaska Economic Development Board as participating organizations. This draft dropped mention of the Office of Naval Research, Orincon, Solipsys, and SAIC.<sup>24</sup> Monacci laid out a vision consisting of a "Civil & Humanitarian Center", for "ensuring synergy among scientific and academic & commercial arenas", a "Simulation & Virtual Test-bed Center", for "Applying modeling & simulation in the academic & commercial arenas", an "Advanced Science & Technology Application Center", for "Application of sensor, environmental, vehicle, and specialized science and technology," a "Hawaiian Center" and an "Alaskan Center". A proposed PMRF sensor testbed integration schedule was included in the presentation. It included tracks for the Modular Command Center/Tactical Component Network, Cooperative Engagement Capability pre-planned product improvements and UESA. **These**

**programs received earmarked funds according to Senator Inouye's press release of July 27, 2000.** The slide presentation also laid out the process that included two phases. Phase one was described as a "small effort (12 months and 2 million) in FY 02" for developing the concept and 5-year plan, memorandums of agreement, management structures and incorporation of the institute. Phase two was supposed to be a "5-year phased funding profile for the institute" that included creation of a virtual range. On August 30, 2001, Fenton revised Monacci's draft and renamed it the "Pacific Research Laboratory".

In her draft, Fenton wrote, "**Contracting...Provide fast/efficient streamlined contracting for DoD customers...THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CORE COMPETENCE OF PRL!!!**" 25

This would turn out **to be a very revealing statement about the driving motive behind the entire Project Kai e'e / UARC scandal.** As described below, **the quest for an anticompetitive sole source IDIQ contract has been the consistent theme in Project Kai e'e / UARC.** Fenton also included a detailed organization chart that specified positions for a Director and Deputy Director. The Director was described as a "Retired Flag Officer" with experience in missile defense programs and who "sets the Vision for the organization." The Deputy Director was described as someone with a background in systems engineering and a Masters of Business Administration. Monacci believed that this organization chart was a not-so-subtle bid by Schultz and Fenton to create jobs for themselves. He said that NCIS was concerned because it looked like Fenton was using government money to set up her own organization. After incorporating Fenton's revisions, later drafts of the concept inexplicably dropped the description of the Modular Command Center/Tactical Component Network and Cooperative Engagement Capability pre-planned product improvements track from a project timeline.

"Preparing proposals are very, is very expensive."<sup>26</sup> Once the overall concept was sketched out, Monacci began drafting a proposal from RCUH in response to BAA N00421-01-R-0176 that sought a five-year contract for a wide range of research programs involving sensor integration technologies in Hawai'i. This was supposed to be the capacity contract alluded to by Fenton that would **prove UH's capabilities to qualify for designation as a federal research laboratory.** Some time in 2001, Masumoto asked **Syrmos** to develop the UH portion of the proposal by organizing faculty members who might have had an interest in sensor integration technologies. **Syrmos** said he collected write-ups and budgets for each faculty and passed the information along to RCUH. According to **Syrmos**, UH's contribution to the proposal included **microwave technology, electro-optics, communications, networking and navigation and control. But Syrmos refused to name the individuals who contributed to Project Kai e'e, stating: "I am not going to provide names of faculty participants lest they be a target for harassment. Should you desire additional information on this topic you can contact Mr. Masumoto."** When asked about Project Kai e'e Masumoto said "Project Kai e'e, project whatever, I don't know what the hell they are anymore."

A copy of the University of Hawai'i contribution to the Project Kai e'e proposal, entitled "NAVAIR Communication and Sensor Integration Capacity Contract Proposal" was obtained for this report. It listed Anthony Kuh as the Principal Investigator, with Audra Bullock, Mike DeLisio, Marc Fossorier, Anders Host-Madsen, Wayne Shiroma, and James Yee as Co-Principal Investigators. The proposal was created in September 2001 and submitted by the Center for

Advanced Communications, College of Engineering at UH. The \$20 million, 5-year proposal focused on Novel Hardware, Secure Communications, Optical Sensors, Space Time Processing and Wireless Networks. 27 Monacci incorporated the UH proposal into the larger Project Kai e'e proposal. Monacci's seventh draft of the proposal dated September 29, 2001 was entitled "Network Centric Warfare Technological Research and Development Proposal". The five-year proposal was valued at \$48 million. The proposal listed the following prospective subcontractors: UH, *Oceanit*, ORINCON, Solipsys, Cambridge Research Associates, SAIC, SYS, and WR Systems.

Of note, *Oceanit* was one of the companies involved in the UESA program and other missile defense projects on Kaua'i. ORINCON (prior to being acquired by Lockheed Martin) was a local small business that developed network centric warfare technologies, including a proprietary system called "Webcentric warfare".

As discussed above, Solipsys was the company that developed the TCN platform for network centric warfare. Cambridge Research Associates (CRA) developed a battle-space visualization software called "PowerScene". Both "Web-centric warfare" and "PowerScene" turned up again later, when they were mentioned by name in **a press release from Senator Inouye indicating that these programs would be eligible to compete for UARC funding**. The proposal included a five-year timeline of the "RCUH Advanced Technology Development Program Plan". The plan listed projects that addressed the three areas of interest in the solicitation: Under the category "New Operational Concepts", the proposal included \$8.1 million for projects in "Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance & Space Exploitation", "Remote/Space Sensing", "Sensor Exploitation and Demonstration", "Signal and Acoustic Processing" and "Battle Space Environments". Under "Sensor Integration and Communications", the proposal included \$9.3 million for "Sensor Networking", "Milimeter Wave Devices", "Integrated Circuits & Spectral Imaging", and "Network Controls & Collaboration Tools". And under "Systems Integration & Demonstration Testing", \$30.2 million was requested for "Mid-Pacific Integrated Sensor Network", "PMRF Radar Test Bed Development", "Synthetic Range" and "Synthetic Theater of War with Joint Semi-Automated Forces". The plans for Project Kai e'e were proceeding rapidly.

At the October 4, 2001 RCUH Board of Directors meeting, Masumoto gushed:

*This may become a major project – about \$50 million if funding comes through. As more of these types of projects become reality, **there may be a need for a separate entity to manage them because of their focused objectives.** 28*

After Monacci's termination, John Grandfield finished the Project Kai e'e proposal for RCUH, which he prepared while employed on Bullock's grant. Bullock said that she did not allow her grant to be used to pay for his work on Project Kai e'e, and instead required him write the proposal on his own time. However Bullock admits that she did not have oversight of Grandfield's or Monacci's actual activities or work product. In fact, Grandfield said that he was actually supervised by Syrmos and had not met Bullock until a year after being hired onto her grant. Syrmos maintained that Iwaniec's work on the UESA grant was only for the purposes of the grant. He would not comment on Iwaniec's involvement with Project Kai e'e. Iwaniec said

that he knew about Project Kai e'e but didn't work on it. On December 4, 2001, Masumoto reported to the RCUH Board of Directors that: RCUH was asked to submit a proposal and has done so for an ONR project with a potential price tag of \$48 million over four years... A Phase 2 proposal may also be submitted. This project is basically in support of the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. 29 Although attempts to obtain a copy of the final Project Kai e'e proposal have been unsuccessful, an anonymous source provided a transcription of portions of the final Project Kai e'e proposal. The cover sheet described the proposal to NAVAIR as "SENCIS Integration Tech Proposal (Project Kai e'e)". John Grandfield was listed as the Technical Point of Contact for the proposal, and Gilbert Oshima, RCUH Director of Finance and Project Management, was listed as the Administrative Point of Contact. Although the solicitation stated that the usual grant range would be in the \$1 to 2 million range, RCUH requested \$48,478,961.35 for a 60-month base contract. The transcription of the proposal included a cover letter dated January 30, 2002, from Harold Masumoto to NAVAIR contract officer Sue Wainwright, although in a recent interview, Masumoto denied that he was the principal investigator for Project Kai e'e. The subcontractors listed on the Project Kai e'e proposal included the University of Hawai'i, the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii (EDAH), Kaaui Economic Development Board (KEDB) and other to be determined industries based on competitive procurement. The membership of KEDB, a non-profit organization established in 1984, includes such notable military contractors and research facilities as Envisioneering, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Oceanit Laboratories, Orincon, Science Applications International Corporation, Solipsys, Trex Enterprises, and the Pacific Missile Range Facility...

At the June 6, 2002 RCUH Board of Directors meeting, Masumoto reported:

*Project Kaiee – We are still awaiting award of the contract. In the meantime, we will receive \$800k of funding to get started (hiring an Executive Director and a Technical Director as well as some other support/technical personnel). The project will be incubated by RCUH. Plans at this time include evolving it into a UARC (University Affiliated Research Center).*

31 Masumoto did not specify the source of the \$800,000 start up funds for Project Kai e'e. RCUH annual reports for the period do not list any federal contracts that match the description. Based on the amount of money in question and the timing of this new infusion, it is possible that he was referring to modifications to Bullock's missile defense and Syrmos' UESA grants. However, it is also possible that these funds never materialized as a result of the withdrawal of the Project Kai e'e proposal and reorganization of the research program. In the summer of 2002, Bullock expressed concerns to Fenton about not having enough money to pay her graduate students. But Fenton said that she could not transfer Grandfield and Gatioan off Bullock's grant because the other anticipated contract had not yet been awarded. So Fenton added money to Bullock's grant to cover Grandfield and Gatioan. On June 25, 2002, \$100,000 was added to Theater Missile Defense grant (N00421-01-1-0176). On July 17, 2002, \$750,000 was added to **Syrmos'** UESA grant (N00014-01-1-0562).

"Things began to fall apart."

Three months after Masumoto's optimistic forecast, Project Kai e'e was abruptly and inexplicably terminated. The minutes of the September 27, 2002 RCUH Board of Directors meeting contained only a terse and vague statement about its cancellation...

"Things began to fall apart," according to Monacci. He said that Schultz's superiors at NAVSEA shut down the MCC program in Hawai'i. After leaving RCUH and going to work for Solipsys to help gain acceptance of the TCN through what he called "proper channels", Monacci said that he encountered Schultz "hidden away" in a Navy desk job.

"He was nuclear," said Monacci. "No one wanted to get near him." Schultz's service transcript indicates that he was reassigned to be "Commander, Military Sealift Command (Special Assistant) from April 2002 to June 1, 2003, when he retired at the reduced rank of Captain. Freedom of information requests for documents about Project Kai e'e and/or NAVAIR solicitation N00421-01-R-0176 were submitted to NAVAIR under FOIA and to RCUH under the Hawai'i Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA).

To date, **the Navy has not produced any information responsive to the FOIA request. Current RCUH Executive Director Michael Hamnett wrote: "We do not have any documents." Hamnett said that his staff told him that the proposal files for Project Kai e'e were shredded and thrown away after the proposal was withdrawn. He was not sure if the information was classified.** Masumoto said "Whatever we had,...there was a subpoena or something, we gave it to [federal investigators]. Whatever I had, I left it all at RCUH. Either that, or I threw it away."

Gilbert Oshima refused to comment on the Project Kai e'e documents even though his name was listed as the administrative point of contact. **John Grandfield said he believed that the proposal was withdrawn to avoid RCUH being implicated in possible illegal activities.** The Department of Defense FY 2003 Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation budget justification sheet explained that the CEC Preplanned Product Improvement, TCN and UESA programs that were **funded by Inouye in FY 2001** were **"restructured in FY 2002" under different program element numbers.** This may correspond to the withdrawal of Project Kai e'e...

(ENTIRE SECTIONS OF SECRET UH UARC can be read with the prior url)

"They will eat them up"

In 2002, Raytheon was faced with potential competition from a team of Solipsys and Lockheed Martin for developing the next generation of Cooperative Engagement Capability. So Raytheon decided to buy Solipsys.

On March 26, 2003, Raytheon announced that it had completed its acquisition of Solipsys Corporation for \$170 million. By September 28, 2004, Warren Citrin, the founding CEO of Solipsys was replaced by a new executive who joined the company after the merger.

Ronald O'Rourke, a defense analyst for the Congressional Research Service reported that the merger of Raytheon and Solipsys and the subsequent teaming arrangement between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin for development of the next phase of the CEC, called "Block II", sparked



concerns that there would not be sufficient competition in the Navy's acquisition strategy. This led to a major overhaul of the Navy's plans for developing the next phase of CEC. 34

According to O'Rourke, in mid-2003, the Navy announced that it would incorporate "open-architecture standards into Block II" and "divide the Block II development effort into a series of smaller contracts for which various firms might be able to submit bids." However in December 2003, "the Navy cancelled its plans for developing Block II in favor of a new plan for developing a joint-service successor to Block I." It is not clear if these developments in any way were related to the demise of Project Kai e'e. With the withdrawal of Project Kai e'e, it seems that energies and funds were split into separate yet related projects.

*According the UH Manoa Faculty Senate report on the proposed UARC, the University developed "a coherent plan of three initiatives, the Hawai'i Engineering Design Center (HEDC), the Hawaii Technology Development Venture (HTDV) and the **UH Applied Research Laboratory [i.e. UARC]**, which together would serve different, but integrated functions for research and development on the part of the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i businesses."*

35. In this scheme, the UARC was to be a vehicle to receive basic and applied research funding from the military. The HEDC was to be the entity that engineered inventions into military and "dual use" applications.

And the HTDV was to be a vehicle to funnel federal seed funding to small tech start up companies seeking to contract with the military. These projects appear to be derived from concepts originally proposed by Monacci in the first sketches of the Pacific Operations Institute.

Senator Inouye announced in his September 25, 2003 press release that he successfully earmarked \$6.8 million for the Hawaii Technology Development Venture (HTDV) and \$500,000 for a "RCUH Engineering and Design Center" (a.k.a. Hawaii Engineering and Design Center). (See Appendix A for more information about HTDV and HEDC) The Navy also issued solicitations and awarded a series of contracts related to **network centric warfare research and testing** that were smaller than Project Kai e'e, but similar to elements of Project Kai e'e.

"The dark ocean": Sources of Project Kai e'e / UARC

The entire Project Kai e'e / UARC saga must be understood in the context of greed and corruption of the Bush era.

The prophetic warning of President Eisenhower in his famous "military industrial complex" speech has taken on new and urgent relevance with each **new nobid contract and congressional earmark scandal**. The first part of the new millennium was a heady time for military contractors. **There were significant increases in missile defense funding**. In addition, a virtual "gold rush" on homeland security and military funding in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks created an intoxicating mix for military contractors and researchers. **Several of the largest defense contractors in the world set up shop in Hawai'i.**

Fenton's actions epitomized the ethos of this period.

The title of her October 23, 2003 talk for the Hawaii Venture Capital Association seemed to sum it all up the prevailing mood: “Free Venture Capital: How to Tap Federal Dollars to Fund Concepts and Create Intellectual Property”.

The event announcement stated: **The Department of the Navy’s Office of Naval Research has millions of dollars available to fund research and development activities that will both serve the Navy and be the basis for a wide range of commercializable intellectual property. Learning how to tap this source of “free venture capital”** will be the topic of Ms. Fenton’s presentation. . . The Office of Naval Research is one of the key agencies that can work with Hawaii tech companies providing a major source of working capital. 36

In a review of Fenton’s presentation – “ONR official talks ‘off the record’ about government contracting”, Bill Spencer of Think Tech News wrote: The government official gave the audience several tips about the ins and outs of dealing with the bureaucracy. Those unfamiliar with the process, not only gained a clearer sense of the **tremendous opportunities afforded by learning how to “work the system” and they learned a multitude of vocabulary words unique to doing business with the government.** Fenton spoke about how Federal research and development programs can be tapped to fund proof of concept and development of intellectual property. She also gave the audience several tidbits of advice, such as going for “service contracts”, getting security clearances, qualifying for 8A, small business and hub zone status. 37

The high technology sector in Hawai‘i was giddy with anticipation. Even as the surge from Project Kai e‘e was still receding, there were stirrings of another wave gathering force. **State, military and business leaders had begun to strategize and organize themselves to better capitalize on the bonanza of federal research funds becoming available in Hawai‘i.**

In July 2002, the Federal Funding for Technology Research, Development, and Commercialization Conference was held in Honolulu with opening remarks by Senator Inouye. Sponsors included the State of Hawai‘i, High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), Hawaii Federal Health Care Partnership, Hawai‘i Technology Trade Association (HTTA), MHPCC, NASA Ames Research Center, Office of Naval Research, Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR), Pacific Telehealth and Technology Hui, and the **University of Hawai‘i.** 38

This meeting of **key players in the high technology sector was seminal in the development of the UARC and related military research initiatives.**

The following year PICHTR sponsored a follow up event, the first annual Tech Enterprise 2003 Conference. The centerpiece of this event was an “invite only” activity called “**Venture Capital Wargame**” where strategies were developed for increasing and better exploiting federal funding and business opportunities in Hawai‘i. The Tech Enterprise conference has been sponsored by PICHTR every year since.

## Diffraction

After plans for Project Kai e‘e were canceled, the Navy issued a number of solicitations and smaller contracts to RCUH and Hawai‘i companies pertaining to the same technologies. Given that many of the programs implicated in Project Kai e‘e appear to have been Congressional earmarks, one possibility is that the Navy cancelled the solicitation N00421-01-R-0176 at the

same time that Project Kai 'e was withdrawn and repackaged the appropriations into smaller solicitations and contracts in order to move the money to Hawai'i. Sensors Integration and Testbed Technologies (NAVAIR solicitation N00421-02-R-0013) On May 30, 2002, NAVAIR issued a solicitation N00421-02-R-0013 "Sensors Integration and Testbed Technologies", which was nearly identical to the earlier solicitation: N00421-01-R-0176 "Sensors Integration and Communications Technologies".

The overall program objectives were also very similar to the earlier solicitation: "to explore new concepts in both sensor integration and testbed design and applications architectures,... invest in key technologies and create **adaptations to better suit the needs of the warfighting community**,... certify the sustainability and safety of candidate systems,... and promote these systems through the procurement process."

It has been confirmed that at least one RCUH project was awarded a contract in response to this solicitation: the HEATx project (N00421-03-C-0018) described below. It is also possible that solicitation N00421-02-R-0013 was related to the RCUH "Next Generation Radar" project (N00421-03-C-0013) described below. Next Generation Radar (NAVAIR Contract N00421-03-C-0013 awarded to RCUH)

Another Navy research project awarded to RCUH was a radar project called "Next Generation Radar". This project was also implicated in the Navy criminal investigation.

In the October 22, 2002 RCUH Board of Directors minutes, Masumoto announced:

**We just received a \$1.2 million contract for a radar systems project at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, under the direction of Dr. Vassilis Syrmos. 39**

At that time, Masumoto also announced his intention to **appoint Syrmos to a temporary, halftime position of "Director of Science and Technology" for RCUH**. The proposed arrangement was to charge half of the position to the Next Generation Radar contract and the other half to RCUH "core budget". Masumoto also discussed the possibility that the position would become permanent. NAVAIR contract N00421-03-C-0013 for "Sensor Integration and Testbed Technologies" was awarded on December 17, 2002 to RCUH in the amount of \$1,163,028, with Vassilis **Syrmos** as the principal investigator. **Syrmos claimed that the contract was competitively awarded**. Since the description of this contract is nearly identical to the solicitation described above N00421-02-R-0013 "Sensors Integration and Testbed Technologies", it raises the possibility that the two are related even although the years are different. **Syrmos has not responded to requests** to confirm this. 40

**"Next Generation Radar: A Unified Approach", as Syrmos named the project, focused primarily on the development and production of 27 transmit/receive switches for the UHF Electronically Scanned Array (UESA) Radar demonstration program of the Navy at Makaha Ridge, part of the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kaua'i.**

**Syrmos was the principal investigator on this contract** from December 2002 to March 2003, when Fenton allegedly **classified the project**. Because **Syrmos** was foreign born, he was not able to continue under new security restrictions.

According to **Syrmos**, after getting security clearance, he resumed work on the contract from February 2004 to September 2005. The RCUH annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 listed the contract as “Sensor Integration and Testbed Technologies” and reported that \$403,723 had been expended. A year later, the RCUH annual report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 listed the program as “Next Generation Optimized Radar” and reported that an additional \$449,727 had been expended. The RCUH annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 reported that \$223,317 had been expended. In FY 2006, \$74,953 was expended from the contract.

However there are discrepancies between the dates of **Syrmos**’ employment in records provided by RCUH.

As of January 11, 2006, **Syrmos** was listed as being a current employee of RCUH on the Next Generation program since October 20, 2005. His compensation was listed as \$1,341.80/month at 10% full time equivalent.

*HawkEye Alternate Transmitter (HEATx) (NAVAIR contract N00421-03-C-0018 awarded to RCUH)*

Another Navy-sponsored RCUH program that generated its own share of controversy was the HawkEye Alternate Transmitter project (HEATx). This was a two-year, \$7,462,180 NAVAIR contract (N00421-03-C-0018) awarded to RCUH on September 23, 2003 to develop an alternative transmitter for the E-2C Hawkeye early warning aircraft. The contract was later raised to \$8,442,180. This contract was awarded pursuant to the NAVAIR solicitation described above: N00421-02-R-0013. HEATx was a type of UESA radar, similar to the projects under investigation. James Stamm, a former NAVAIR employee and close associate of Fenton, was the PI of the project. 41

On October 1, 2003, while still employed as a UESA Engineer under Bullock’s grant, John Grandfield’s source of funding switched from RCUH “Direct Engineering Projects” to the HEATx project. Robert Swisher, a former student of UH professor DeLisio, also worked on HEATx.

**In June 2005, Stamm sued RCUH over an alleged breach of contract and intellectual property rights related to his HEATx research. (See Appendix A) The Navy has denied FOIA requests for this contract claiming that the information was classified. This determination is being appealed.** Sensor, Communication, Information, and Integration Technologies (NAVAIR solicitation N000421-03-R-0058)

On March 6, 2003, NAVAIR issued another solicitation N000421-03-R-0058 “Sensor, Communication, Information, and Integration Technologies” seeking proposals specific to next generation advanced surveillance radar and electronics testbed on Makaha Ridge, Kaua’i,

Advanced Integrated Radar, Electronics, and Photonics (AIREP, a successor to UESA), and Mobile Modular Command Center (M2C2, a successor to the Tactical Component Network). The projected award size range was \$1 million to \$10 million. A number of Hawai’i companies were listed as prospective bidders, but which projects received funding remains unknown. It is **likely that one contract was awarded to Honolulu-based Pacific Technologies, which**

**received \$5 million in earmarked seed monies from Senator Inouye.**<sup>42</sup> Pacific Technologies called its project Mobile Modular Command and Control, which differs slightly from the description in the solicitation yet makes the same acronym. Pacific Technologies subcontracted with Raytheon, Oceanit, Akimeka and Referentia.

Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to this solicitation were submitted to NAVAIR. However, NAVAIR redirected FOIA requests related to this contract to ONR, whom they claimed was the custodian of the documents. To date no documents have been produced. Curiously the DoD budget justification documents for FY 2003 contained entries for UESA, MCC and TCN, but not for “AIREP” and “M2C2”.

It is possible that after the MCC/TCN project was canceled and the Project Kai e’e proposal withdrawn, the funds earmarked for UESA and MCC/TCN were reallocated to similar programs under different names.

Iwaniec described how trailers brought to PMRF for the Modular Command Center (MCC) program stood idle for a long time after the project was shut down. **The new systems – AIREP and M2C2 – did appear in Senator Inouye’s press release on the following fiscal year Defense Appropriations bill. In this bill there were sizeable appropriations for network centric warfare systems: \$10.75 million for AIREP, \$2 million for M2C2, \$5 million for Network Applications Integration Facility (a hub for a global TCN system), and \$4.5 million for a Network Centric Warfare testbed.**

#### Conflicts of Interest

Repercussions from the Project Kai e’e debacle continued to be felt.

Masumoto’s report to the RCUH Board of Directors on March 6, 2003 hinted at conflict of interest problems that arose in the wake of Project Kai e’e: RCUH may find itself in a potential “conflict of interest” situation since we are doing R&D work and we also have a contract for “services”.

People writing specs for RFPs and reviewing proposals need to be separate from those developing proposals. We currently have “firewalls” in place, but the potential still exists. In the future, the RCUH services contract will be moved from RCUH to PICHTR. RCUH will perform the applied research and development functions. 43

He may have been referring to RCUH’s contract to provide technical services to the ONR MidPacific Branch Office. Through a very complicated arrangement of contracts and subcontracts, money was passed through several government agencies and corporations to RCUH. Technical Services for ONR Mid-Pacific Branch Office (NAVAIR Task Order T-03-03-DSM012 awarded to Anteon via GSA contract GS09K99BHD0001; **subcontracted to RCUH, PICHTR and Oceanit**) The General Services Administration contract with Anteon Inc. (GS09K99BHD0001) was a “worldwide MA-ID/IQ contract available for use by any federal government agency to acquire contractor services and support for information technology (IT) needs”. Under this open ended and unspecific service contract, NAVAIR ordered the services of Anteon (Task Order T-03-03- DSM012) to provide technical support services to the Mid-Pacific Branch Office of ONR.

Anteon in turn awarded noncompetitive subcontracts to three Hawai'i-based entities: Oceanit Laboratories, RCUH, and PICHTR. Details about the size of the contract and the "technical services" provided under this contract, are not clear. FOIA requests to NAVAIR for its Task Order T-03-03-DSM012 were redirected to ONR, but to date no information has been released. A freedom of information request for the subcontract was also submitted to RCUH. RCUH claims that it shredded its records. RCUH had this services contract at the same time that it was working on research contracts related to the UESA and Next Generation Radar projects.

RCUH apparently created a Conflict of Interest Policy on June 23, 2003 "**to address any perception of conflict of interest.**" It is possible that the concern about conflicts of interest arose partly out of this Anteon subcontract.

At the August 25, 2003 RCUH Board of Director's meeting, Masumoto explained that: **The policy was put in place because of the Department of Defense (DoD) projects RCUH was involved in. RCUH had both a "services" contract (providing people for specific jobs) as well as an R&D (research and development) contract (providing a specific product).** Additionally, while he was Executive Director [of RCUH], he was also serving as President & CEO of PICHTR and because PICHTR's subsidiary company, PTAC [Pacific Technology Applications Corporation], submitted a proposal to the Office of Naval Research in response to an RFP for a "services" contract, there may have been a perceived conflict of interest with his involvement in the RCUH R&D contract and the PICHTR services contract....It was not developed for his personal gain in any way. 44

Technical, Management and Administrative Support for the Greater Mid-Pacific Branch Office Technical Division of the Office of Naval Research (ONR solicitation N00014-03-R0008) Seemingly in response to potential conflicts of interest that may have arisen from its arrangement with

**Anteon, Oceanit, RCUH and PICTHR, the Office of Naval Research reorganized its "service" contract.** On March 13, 2003, ONR issued a request for proposals N00014-03-R-0008 "Technical, Management and Administrative Support for the Greater Mid-Pacific Branch Office Technical Division of the Office of Naval Research". The management and administrative services sought related to the technical programs described above in N00421-03-R-0058 "Sensor, Communication, Information, and Integration Technologies".

The ONR solicitation stated that approximately 70% of the work would be new, while 30% was already being done under the previously discussed Anteon contract, with 7% of the total award having gone to **Oceanit**, 5% to **RCUH** and 5% to **PICHTR** through subcontracts. ONR specified that this solicitation was **amended to safeguard against organizational conflicts of interest: "our future MIDPAC technical and administrative support contractor will be ineligible to participate in future out-of-house R&D work supporting MIDPAC's on-going and future R&D programs."** 45

FOIA requests to ONR related to N00014-03-R-0008 are still pending.

## Genealogy of the UARC

The seeds of the UARC can be found in John Monacci's early concept sketches of a Pacific Operations Institute, which took shape as early as August 2001. Fenton's variation on the theme was the Pacific Research Laboratory, which was primarily envisioned as a vehicle to bypass competition requirements and funnel appropriations to Hawai'i based projects. The original plan seemed to have three phases. First was to boost UH's capacity as a research university by funding two small Navy grants (UESA and Theater Missile Defense/MCC/TCN) to UH researchers as the vehicle to demonstrate a relationship between UH and the Navy and to assemble a hand-picked research and development team. Second, this team prepared a comprehensive five-year project proposal for sensors integration and network centric warfare systems research and testing to be conducted primarily at PMRF and contracted through RCUH. This was known as Project Kai e'e. Once the programs were funded and the University could demonstrate its capacity to handle the work, the **program was supposed to become a long-term arrangement such as a UARC or a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).**

As Masumoto reported to the RCUH Board of Directors in March 2002:  
The intent is that RCUH will "incubate" [Project Kai e'e] and then later there will be a new home base for it. The long-range objective is to make this a federal research center similar to national labs such as Sandia, etc. 46

**And in June 2002: Plans at this time include evolving it into a UARC (University Affiliated Research Center).** 47 When Project Kai e'e was terminated, RCUH apparently shifted its energies to focus on development of the UARC itself: "RCUH will pursue other avenues of funding for these types of projects." 48 The UARC concept was outlined in a **September 15, 2002 Powerpoint slide presentation by Masumoto and Syrmos.** At the time, Syrmos was an UH faculty member on contract to RCUH. 49

In November 2002 Syrmos distributed these slides to UH researchers to discuss their possible participation in the UARC and **explained that they were from a presentation made to "Senator Inouye's staff". He later claimed the slides were from a presentation to NAVSEA.**

In their Powerpoint presentation, Masumoto and Syrmos described the UARC as "**SENSors Communications and Information Technology (SENCIT) for the 21st Century Warfare**". It recycled elements of Project Kai e'e. The UARC then appeared in an **October 16, 2002 press release from Senator Inouye about the Defense Appropriations Bill that stated: Also, the Power Scene initiative and the Web Centric Warfare program may compete for University Affiliated Research Center funding.**50

As mentioned above, PowerScene and Web Centric Warfare and were projects of Cambridge Research Associates and Orincon respectively, and were incorporated into the early drafts of Project Kai e'e. According to Navy Research Development, Testing and Engineering budget justifications for 2000 and 2001, \$7 million was earmarked for Orincon's "Web Centric Warfare" program working with distributed underwater sensors.

Rich McSheehy, a former MIT Lincoln Laboratory employee on loan to ONR through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act and an assistant to Fenton, said, "***Nobody wanted a UARC in***

*the beginning...Business didn't trust it.*" With this in mind, the curious sentence in Inouye's press release may have been intended to reassure businesses that the UARC would benefit them too.<sup>51</sup> But this would seem to contradict prohibitions on organizational conflicts of interest that govern UARCs as "trusted agents" of the government, as Syrmos explained in a Ka Leo newspaper article: "The UARCs cannot partner with private industry, because the idea is that the UARC is a trusted agent of the government," Syrmos said. "As such, the government turns to the UARC for advice on programs. If these programs were to later go out for a BAA (Broad Agency Announcement) or an RFP (Request for Proposal) where private industries come in and compete, then you have a conflict of interest. So there should be no collaboration between a center like that (UARC) and private industry. "There should be no collaboration between the UARC and defense contractors," Syrmos continued. "At that point the DOD (Department of Defense) would have a problem, and that problem is called organizational conflict of interest, and one should not engage in this because it's not correct."

It is unclear from a review of Defense Appropriations legislation and related Committee Reports specifically what the Senator's press release was referring to. Charly Houy, Senator Inouye's staff for the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee could not explain the specific projects mentioned in the press release. Senator Inouye has not yet responded to a January 26, 2006 letter requesting an explanation of the UARC reference and other budget items mentioned in the Senator's press release. But **Inouye's hand in the UARC was apparent throughout**. Patricia Gruber, research director for ONR was quoted in a Chronicle of Higher Education article February 10, 2006 as saying **"Mr. Inouye did a very good job of pointing out to the Navy that Hawaii is a very strategic university... and also that they have some unique capabilities."**

### **Interference Patterns**

On April 6, 2005, at a Public Meeting to discuss the proposed UARC, this author asked UH Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert "I would like to know what is the relationship between the UARC and, and this Navy criminal investigation of mismanagement, alleged mismanagement of classified contracts." Englert replied, "I am actually not knowing what investigation you are talking about to some degree..." When pressed further, Englert said "It doesn't touch the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus and it has nothing to do whatsoever with the proposal that you're discussing today."

Asked about his dealings with Mun Won Fenton and Harold Masumoto, Englert answered "In the discussions that I had, in all the dealings, the names that you mentioned, the people that you mention I have never seen with respect to the UARC." <sup>54</sup> **Untrue**. Englert's story was contradicted by Masumoto's account of having discussed the UARC with him as early as October 2002, and by Englert's own December 6, 2002 letter to Chief of Naval Research Admiral Cohen:

Currently we are working with Ms. Mun Won Fenton at ONR and Mr. David Savillo at NAVSEA to create a preliminary management plan that will serve as the road map of the University's core competencies. Furthermore, Mr. Harold Masumoto, Executive Director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, has briefed Mr. John Young, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on our intention to apply for a UARC at UHM. <sup>55</sup>



On a “Frequently Asked Questions about the UARC” page of the UH Manoa Chancellor’s website, the following question was submitted:

The proposal writers of Project Kai’e’e have been seriously involved in the UARC proposal since its inception. How does this change the opinions of yourself, and the Chancellor’s office about the UARC?

The university administration’s response was cryptic: Several university (seven) faculty members from engineering contributed to the Project Kai’e’e proposal on the portion designated to UH. No UH faculty members contributed to the portion of the proposal designated to RCUH. At least ten faculty members from SOEST, Institute for Astronomy (IfA) and Engineering contributed to the UARC initial “proposal”.

Three UH faculty members that contributed to the UH part of the Project Kai’e’e proposal also contributed as well to the initial “UARC proposal”.

The final UARC proposal to the Navy was coordinated by four faculty members with inputs from numerous faculty members in SOEST, IfA, and Engineering. Project Kai’e’e was not funded for reasons unrelated to the University of Hawaii. Since there is no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of any UH faculty members relative to their participation in the Project Kai’e’e proposal there is no basis to “change the opinions”. 56

**In a July 18, 2003 email to UH Physicist Eric Szarmes, Syrmos disclosed that he was the chief author of the UARC proposal.** He named other contributors as Paul Lucey (School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology), Rick Rocheleau (Hawaii Natural Energy Institute), Lloyd Hihara (College of Engineering, COE), Todd Reed (COE), Chris Ftaclas (Institute for Astronomy), Lenny Capello (PICHTR) and Audra Bullock (COE). Syrmos indicated that **he compiled the pieces and assembled it together, while James Gaines and Rolf Kudritski, Director of the UH Institute for Astronomy, edited the final version.** *Amazingly, the UH administration has continued to deny that the UARC is related to Project Kai e’e or the Navy investigation.* Even as late as February 2007 after being presented with proof of RCUH’s plans to transform Project Kai e’e into a UARC, UH President McClain wrote to Hawai’i State Representative Roy Takumi, **“To the best of our knowledge, there is no relationship between Project Kai e’e, the Navy investigation and the UARC.”** 57

(ENTIRE SECTIONS OF SECRET UH UARC omitted can be read with the prior url)

On February 4, 2003, UH Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert and Vassilis Syrmos testified at a Joint Informational Briefing of the Hawai’i State Senate Committee on Science, Art and Education and the Committee on Economic Development. They described the elements of the proposed UARC as including, among other things, Sensor Communications and Information Technologies (SENCIT), Advanced Electro-Optics and Sensing (AEOS), as well as **Weaponized Laser Technology.** The presentation also explained the connection between the **proposed UARC and another initiative headed by Syrmos, the Hawaii Engineering and Design Center (HEDC).** In the audience and offering supportive comments were **Larry Cutshaw (a Lockheed Martin – Orincon executive and husband of Kathy Cutshaw, UH Manoa Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Operations),** representatives of NovaSol and other defense contractors. Harold Masumoto watched from the back of the hearing room. As

early as March 6, 2003, Syrmos, who had been hired as RCUH's Interim Director of Science and Technology reported to the RCUH Board of Directors:

**University Affiliated Research Center (UARC)** – The proposal is 99% complete and the UHM approvals are in place to take it to next step which is for Admiral Cohen (Chief of Naval Research) to send it to NAVSEA to designate UHM as a UARC. It is hoped that the UARC will be in place by this summer. Because a UARC functions as a trusted agent of the government, it operates under sole source, multi-task delivery of contracts to perform work primarily for Navy sponsors...Until UH changes its policy on classified research, such an activity has to be run through an organization like RCUH. **Creating a separate 501(c)(3) type organization is another alternative.** 59

This statement would indicate that McClain's "compromise" position of locating the UARC off the UH Manoa Campus was in the cards all along.

On April 16, 2003, UHM Chancellor Englert submitted a proposed UARC management plan to Admiral Cohen, and copied the letter to Fenton and Masumoto. In this initial submission to ONR, the **UH Free Electron Laser program, Institute for Astronomy programs and PICHTR** were named as key assets in support of the UARC. **The UARC proposal included several references to Ultra High Frequency Electronically Scanned Array (UESA) radar projects, sensor network integration projects, and network centric warfare technologies.**

In a **May 27, 2003 letter** to the Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), **Rear Admiral Cohen requested the establishment of a UARC at UH** and named Mun Won Chang Fenton as his "point of contact" for the UARC. Although Masumoto resigned as Executive Director of RCUH in the summer of 2003, he continued to work behind the scenes as a consultant to secure the UARC. Masumoto **quietly signed** a \$60,000 "Agreement For Services" with RCUH dated July 1, 2003. The contract was originally set to terminate June 30, 2004.

Under the Scope of Services, Masumoto's top job responsibility was: Coordinate and follow up on University of Hawaii efforts to be designated as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC). Advise and participate in setting up the infrastructure within UH / RCUH for operating a UARC.

At its June 23, 2004 meeting the RCUH Board of Directors approved an extension of Masumoto's contract to December 31, 2004. The new RCUH Executive Director Michael Hamnett *"added that Mr. Masumoto's assistance is needed for the UARC (University Affiliated Research Center) initiative since he was instrumental in proposing the establishment of such a center at the University."* 60 On December 14, 2004, his contract was extended again to June 30, 2005. During his term as a consultant, Masumoto maintained his government security clearance, although it is not clear what level of clearance he had, or why he needed a security clearance beyond his employment at RCUH. With several months remaining on his contract, Masumoto abruptly canceled the agreement and his security clearance on March 31, 2005 soon after the news of a criminal investigation broke.

When this author requested Masumoto's consultancy contract soon after its cancellation, **RCUH executive secretary Brenda Kanno originally denied its existence**. After persistent questioning, however, she found the contract. 59. Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i Board of Directors, Minutes, March 6, 2003

### **The Wave Breaks**

*Mimiki ke kai, ahuwale ka papa leho. When the sea draws out in the tidal wave, the rocks where the cowries hide are exposed.* - 'Olelo No'eau 61 Turbulence from the unseen events that led to the cancellation of Project Kai e'e continued for months afterwards. By 2003, the relationship between Fenton and **Syrmos** grew unbearably strained. James Gaines, UH Vice President for Research told the Honolulu Advertiser in March 5, 2005, *"It wasn't that we had mismanaged contracts, but that our principal investigator didn't want to go along with some changes suggested by the program manager."*

The article reported that Gaines and the PI of the grant did not think that the suggested changes were appropriate. According to Gaines, Fenton tried to remove **Syrmos** from the two research projects he was heading. On several occasions, she met with Gaines and complained about **Syrmos being "very uncooperative"** but did not specify the nature of the dispute. Gaines recalled that the meetings with Fenton were very tense, but he told Fenton that he would not intervene. Monacci said "Fenton was obsessed with keeping things secret from everybody... She was totally obsessed."

In September 2002, modifications to the UESA Grant (N00014-01-1-0562) classified some information on the project. This occurred during the same period that the MCC/TCN project was shut down and Project Kai e'e was withdrawn. Further modifications to the classification specification occurred in August and October of 2003, when the Navy investigation was starting up.

According to **Syrmos**, it was in the Spring of 2003 that **several pieces of information were classified on the Next Generation Radar project**. Heightened security restrictions in the wake of September 11, 2001, guaranteed that a foreign born researcher like **Syrmos** would not be able to easily attain security clearance. As a result, he was temporarily forced off the UESA and Next Generation projects. Gaines said he believed that Fenton used classification of the UESA and Next Generation contracts to have **Syrmos** removed from the projects. While **Syrmos** acknowledged that he did not have a good relationship with Fenton, he would not comment on the nature of the conflict between himself and Fenton, or whether he observed any improper conduct by Fenton.

After **Syrmos** was removed from the UESA grant, Gaines said he appointed Audra Bullock to be the PI for the final month of the UESA grant in order to finish the report. It took **Syrmos** nearly a year to get his security clearance, at which point he returned in February 2004 to finish the Next Generation Project, which he claimed was completed in September 2005...

(SECTION NOT MENTIONED, PLEASE READ in the above referenced presentation to the BOR Sept, 2007)

According to a March 2, 2005 article in Ka Leo o Hawai‘i, the Navy Inspector General requested documents from RCUH in January 2005. Monacci and Bullock both confirmed being interviewed by NCIS. As of May 2006, the NCIS investigation was still open. The March 5, 2005 Honolulu Advertiser article reported that Masumoto said he did not know what the investigation was about. He was quoted as saying “they asked for a lot of information and we gave it, ... I don’t know what they were fishing for. ... I don’t keep up with those things anymore.”

On two separate occasions, **Syrmos** publicly denied talking with Navy investigators. The same March 2005 the Honolulu Advertiser article reported that **Syrmos** “*doesn’t know anything about the investigation and cannot speculate on what it’s about.*” He was quoted as saying: “*At this point, we haven’t been asked any questions.*” Then at an **April 7, 2005 public meeting on the UARC, Syrmos was asked by this author “Has a Navy criminal investigation service interviewed you?”**

His response was a flat “*No.*”

**But he was not telling the truth.** soon after that public meeting, **the Navy confirmed that their agents had interviewed Syrmos on at least two occasions.**

There appears to have been a major shake up among the entities and players involved, including possible disciplinary actions against certain individuals. Schultz’s military service transcript shows that his otherwise illustrious Navy career ended rather ignominiously when he retired on June 1, 2003 at the reduced rank of Captain. Some time between the end of 2003 and summer 2004, Fenton was replaced as the ONR project manager for UH contracts and reassigned to another division.

On January 1, 2003, Vassilis **Syrmos** had been appointed to the position of Interim Director of Science and Technology at RCUH, a position he held concurrently with his faculty position at UH and the title of Special Assistant to the UH Manoa Chancellor. But **Syrmos** abruptly left RCUH on May 31, 2003. When asked about his role at RCUH and his relationship to Masumoto, **Syrmos** snapped back “If you did your homework, you would know why I left RCUH.” **In the midst of the classified information clean up and mounting threat of a federal investigation, Harold Masumoto resigned as RCUH Executive Director on July 22, 2003 and went to work full time as the CEO of PICHTR.** At the same time, he quietly signed a \$60,000 consultancy contract with RCUH to help secure the UARC for UH. **On July 15, 2003 Debby Gatioan and John Iwaniec apparently joined Masumoto, and arrangements were made to switch the source of their salaries from RCUH “Direct Engineering Projects” to an unspecified source of funds from PICHTR.**

### *Searching for a Sole Source*

**The driving impetus behind the UARC and Project Kai e‘e was the quest for a sole source, open ended funding arrangement for military research programs in Hawai‘i. As Fenton stated in 2001 “fast/efficient streamlined contracting for DoD customers...IS THE MOST**

**IMPORTANT CORE COMPETENCE...**<sup>66</sup> This idea was echoed by UH President McClain in January 2007: “the UARC contract is simply a master agreement....”<sup>67</sup> Irregularities in the procedures for establishment of the UARC have raised concerns about the Navy’s failure to follow established federal acquisition regulations for the procurement of the UARC to UH.<sup>68</sup> Neither the UH administration nor the Navy have provided a satisfactory explanation nor justification why the sole source procurement of the UARC to UH deviated from normal competition requirements for federal contracts. Public notice of the UARC procurement came after two years of negotiations and planning had already taken place between UH, ONR and NAVSEA.

At the recommendation of RADM Cohen, Chief of Naval Research, in May 2003, NAVSEA conducted a Review and Justification for Establishing a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) at University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), which concluded in May 2004. Based on this document, on May 21, 2004, Gregg Hagedorn, the Acting Executive Director of NAVSEA recommended the establishment of the UARC with the concurrence of John Young, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) on June 5, 2004.<sup>69</sup>...

In a letter dated July 8, 2004, Ronald Sega, Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) wrote

*“I approve the request to designate the University of Hawaii at Manoa Applied Research Laboratory (UHM-ARL) as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC).”*<sup>71</sup>

A congressional notification memo addressed to Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka and **Representative Abercrombie** was prepared in anticipation of Sega’s approval.<sup>72</sup>

But according to Pete Brown at NAVSEA, Lieutenant Commander Leda Chong, from the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs made **personal phone calls to the Hawaii Congressional delegation rather than send the letter.**

Brown wrote, “CDR Leda Chong had spoken with SEN Inouye’s staff on 12, July 04.”<sup>73</sup>

*Procurement Irregularities Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) require full and open competition for most types of federal procurement actions. This is to ensure the fairness, quality and cost effectiveness of goods and services acquired by the government. The law allows for some exceptions to full and open competition when there is a compelling need or extenuating circumstances. Federal law 10 U.S.C. 2304 (c)(3)(B) permits “other than full and open competition” when “it is necessary to award the contract to a particular source or sources in order ...to establish or maintain an essential engineering, research, or development capability to be provided by an educational or other nonprofit institution or a federally funded research and development center”. However, the procedures for establishing this type of relationship with the government usually require exhaustive steps to justify the need for and to select a sole source provider of “essential engineering, research, or development capability”.*

University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs) and their closely related cousins, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) are considered “trusted agents” of the federal government that have access to privileged information and receive sole source research grants and contracts within their designated “core competencies”. Because of their uniquely close relationship to the federal government and access to information and funds, UARCs and FFRDCs also must observe strict guidelines to avoid organizational conflicts of interest. In the mid-1990s, inappropriate contracting activity involving existing UARCs and FFRDCs led to a review of these programs and tighter restrictions. 74

To prevent the abuse of sole source funding through UARCs and FFRDCs, the Department of Defense (DoD) promulgated its own rules for management of UARCs. 75

A “Discussion Paper” from the Directorate for Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) that was distributed by UH administrators to researchers at UH Manoa clearly laid out the guidelines and requirements for the establishment of a new UARC: **Sponsorship comes first, driven by Defense program needs.... The determination to establish a new UARC is therefore internal to DoD, independent of a University’s potential desire to establish a UARC.**

On the process of establishing a new UARC, the “Discussion Paper” stated: The sponsor(s) must define the long-term requirement (with funding expected to exceed \$10 M annually), in the context of the core capabilities to be maintained by the UARC. These required capabilities must be approved through the Service Acquisition Executive (SAE) and forwarded to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) for final approval to establish a new UARC.

The sponsors should then solicit proposals from all interested Universities for establishing a new UARC to meet the approved core capability requirements. The selection process should follow established procurement procedures. 76 [emphasis added]

Basically, a DoD sponsor of a new UARC must clearly define why it needs a UARC and what work (core competencies) will be required of the UARC.

Then the sponsor should follow competitive procurement practices, soliciting proposals from all qualified and interested Universities, before awarding the UARC contract.

**This is logical since once the UARC is established it would enjoy access to an indefinite amount of non-competed funding.**

**However, NAVSEA did not follow these guidelines or processes for procuring the UARC to UH. Perhaps because the UH UARC was the first new UARC to be considered by the Navy in 60 years, reviewers of the proposal seemed to be making up the procedures.**

In fact on the “coordination page” of the Review and Justification for Establishing a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) at University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), a hand written note by Sophie Krasik, Assistant General Counsel dated June 4, 2004 stated:

*Note: I haven’t been able to find any guidance on establishment of UARC’s (vice FFRDCs, for example) but the criteria used here are reasonable ones. 77*

The public has gotten **contradictory accounts of the procurement process for the UARC**. In a hearing before the State Senate Committee on Higher Education in 2005, **Syrmos** testified that there had been a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), a widely distributed competitive procurement announcement, for the UARC. But when an audience member pointed out that there was no BAA, **Syrmos corrected himself** and said that it was a Request for Proposals (RFP) that was issued on September 24, 2004.

**But this was also a false statement. There was no competitive solicitation of any kind.**

After Sega approved the designation of UH Manoa – Applied Research Laboratory as a UARC, NAVSEA issued a Presolicitation Notice N00024-05-R-6234 dated September 24, 2004, which stated:

*The Naval Sea System Command intends to award a sole source contract for up to 315 work years to establish and further solidify a strategic relationship for essential Engineering, Research, and Development capabilities at the Applied Research Laboratory, University of Hawaii at Manoa (ARL/UHM), 2500 Campus Road, Honolulu, HI 96822. [emphasis added] (Author's addition: 2004 plus 315 equals YR 2319)*

In a public meeting on April 7, 2005, it was pointed out to UH administrators that other federal sponsors, including the Army and NASA used full and open competition in procurement of new UARCs. **Syrmos blithely dismissed the information: “The Navy runs the UARC office differently than the Army.”**

According to Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 6.3, federal sponsors seeking to use one of the listed exceptions to full and open competition are required to conduct a rigorous written justification.

The FAR spells out at least twelve elements that must be part of a justification.

Obtained through FOIA, the May 2004 Review and Justification for Establishing a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) produced by NAVSEA and transmitted to the Director, Defense Research and Engineering on May 21, 2004, **only addressed the question of whether or not NAVSEA had a legitimate need for a UARC at UH**. While it is debatable whether the document fulfilled even this requirement, the Review and Justification **did not address the justification required under FAR for a non-competitive procurement**.

A FOIA request to NAVSEA for the written justification and certification of a noncompetitive procurement was filed in November 23, 2005. To date, there has not been a substantive response. But there is another exception to full and open competition that deserves mention. “Full and open competition need not be provided for when...a statute expressly authorizes or requires that the acquisition be made through another agency or from a specified source,” in other words, when a budget item is a congressional earmark.<sup>78</sup>

The Navy has not evoked this exception to the competition requirements. However, given that no other justification **for the sole source procurement has been provided, it may be possible that the UARC was non-competitively awarded to UH by congressional earmark**.

## Free Electron Laser

At the February 4, 2003 legislative briefing Syrmos testified that **a “technology which was of high interest to the Navy is the weaponized laser technology which the Navy is interested to put into the PMRF base.”**

This interest in **directed energy research** added a new twist to the UARC story that has revealed much about the forces at play behind the UARC. *The Navy’s intense interest in a weaponized laser program has been a source of enormous concern and frustration for UH physicists John Madey and Eric Szarmes, both of whom work on the UH Free Electron Laser (FEL) program and oppose a weaponized laser program at PMRF as a hazard to the civilian populations on Kaua’i and Ni’ihau.* Their opposition to the program is significant because as a graduate student at Stanford in the late 1960s, John Madey invented the FEL, a revolutionary technology that allowed researchers to adjust the power and frequency of the beam generated. Ever since, he has had to fend off the advances of others who vied for control of his invention. A case in point is Madey’s long legal battle with Duke University over ownership of Madey’s invention, the MkIII Free Electron Laser. Madey brought the laser with him from Stanford to Durham in 1988, but when a dispute arose over control of Madey’s research in 1997, Duke claimed that it owned the device. Madey maintained that the laser was developed under contract to the Department of Energy and the Army Space and Missile Defense Command and that the equipment should move with him to UH. 79 In 2001, the ONR entered the fray and issued a report that erroneously claimed that the Air Force originally sponsored and later transferred ownership of the MkIII laser to Duke, a finding that bolstered Duke’s claim to the laser. 80 However, according to Madey, when he, UH and the Department of Energy presented evidence conclusively refuting ONR’s findings, ONR refused to retract its conclusions. The Navy’s interventions continued after Madey moved to UH. Early in 2002, Northrop Grumman sought an agreement with UH to support the development of a Navy Free Electron Laser program at PMRF. **Madey and Szarmes urged UH to reject the proposal because, they argued, their expertise in FEL sensors, sources, and diagnostics was not compatible with weapons development, and there would be few benefits to UH.** This threat seemed to go away.

Then around May 2002, Mun Won Fenton asked Audra Bullock, who also worked with lasers, **to make a presentation to Senator Inouye’s staff Charly Houy at a meeting at PMRF.** The proposal was to create a weaponized laser facility on Kaua’i with up to \$500 million in plus up funding. It seemed odd to Bullock that Fenton had not invited John Madey, **the “father” of the FEL,** so she spoke with Madey and learned that **Madey was excluded because he did not support a laser weapons program at PMRF since such a program would endanger residents of Ni’ihau.** Bullock said that she thought the initiative did not go anywhere.

So understandably, it was a **shock for Madey and Szarmes to learn that their program was being put forth as part of a UARC package that included weaponized laser development.** Madey and Szarmes told UH administrators in late 2002 that they wanted nothing to do with the UARC, but for months afterwards, their research program kept appearing in different versions of the UARC plan. At this point Madey and Szarmes lodged a protest with the UH administration for including their program in the UARC proposal against their wishes. **In a strongly worded**



letter to Englert dated July 16, 2003, Madey and Szarmes complained that Englert's UARC Management Plan and attachments: explicitly and erroneously state that AHI Sensors Project is a Navy research program, and that the AHI Sensors Project presently in progress here at UH under Army sponsorship represents a critical Navy "core competence". In a July 18, 2003 letter, Englert assured Madey that UH would "correct any inaccuracies and erroneous statements". Yet, the Free Electron Laser remained in the UARC planning documents. So Madey followed up directly with the NAVSEA UARC management office, which elicited a revealing response from Tom Neuberger, a NAVSEA UARC coordinator.

In a September 26, 2003 email to Madey, Neuberger wrote:

*We were approached by representatives from CNR [Chief of Naval Research] and UHM, including ADM Cohen, Dr. Syrmos and Chancellor Englert, and asked to help establish a Navy-sponsored UARC at UHM. We are the only Navy office with experience in UARC administration – that's how we got involved. However, we are not a UH program/funding sponsor, and by ourselves we cannot justify a UHM UARC to the Navy/DoD acquisition executives who must approve it. So we are trying to reach out to all other DoD program funding offices which may be interested in a long-term UARC relationship with UHM, to determine what their interest is, and whether a UHM UARC case can be made based on DoD requirements. To help identify sponsor contacts and support the case for a UHM UARC, I asked Dr. Syrmos for a list of all DoD funded work within the past several years. He provided this list a number of months ago. Your programs are on this list, but that probably occurred before the internal UH agreement to exclude your programs. Until now, I did not know that.... We need a substantial base of DoD sponsor support to make the case for a UHM UARC, and we are literally trying to build that base in response to this request from the Chief of Naval Research...*

**This evidence supports the conclusion that the UARC was not an essential research priority for NAVSEA.** Instead, it suggests that the initiative for the UARC came from a small group outside of the sponsoring agency. Essentially, UARC managers at NAVSEA were forced to contrive a justification for procuring a new UARC that they neither needed nor wanted. NAVSEA officials literally asked UH administrators for suggestions of which UH programs NAVSEA might include in their justification of the need.

**An internal Navy communication from April 2004 indicated that it was difficult to muster up support for the UARC from various potential military customers:**

*I sent the final "official" call for UARC support in late March – asked for input by 15 April. We sent a reminder email earlier this week, as no responses had been received. We also forwarded a copy of the reminder to UHM. The following provides a summary of the organizations we queried and the responses we received...ONR – No response yet....PMRF/Naval Region Hawaii –Response attached (no funding planned)....[Missile Defense Agency] – Negative response (no need for UHM UARC at this time)...[Air Force Office of Scientific Research] – Negative response (no UHM UARC requirements)...NAVAIR – One of two responses. Favorable to UHM UARC, with up to \$5M estimated annual funding in photonics, antennas, radar and others. 81*

This email seems to confirm that the UARC was being **driven by political considerations more than any real need**. The favorable response came from NAVAIR for research related to the sensor technologies discussed in Project Kai e'e. After Madey and Szarmes were eventually able to remove their program from the UARC package, the Institute for Astronomy (IfA) apparently realized that the UARC posed a threat to its interests and followed suit.

In November of 2005, UH Manoa Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Gary Ostrander sent a letter to IfA Director Rolf Kudritski confirming that as they had discussed, **the Pan-STARRS telescope project – a program that had been showcased in earlier presentations about the UARC – would be excluded from the UARC package. What is most intriguing about this development is that it occurred after the Navy had already conducted its review and justification and approval of the UARC proposal. This supports the contention that the Navy's justification for the UARC was fabricated to meet the appearance of compliance.**

Another possible factor was that the Air Force, which funds the Pan-STARRS project did not want competition from the Navy for control of its research projects.

**In fact, the Air Force also opted to exclude its Maui supercomputer** An internal Navy email addressed to John Young, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition) **revealed that the Air Force wanted its Maui Supercomputer excluded from the UARC package:** You asked why High Performance Computing was not a core area for the Hawaii UARC. [Air Force] has a competitively awarded contract with UHM for the HPCC program, and wants the option to re compete when that contract ends in two years. They declined Navy's offer to include it in the UARC contract now – we can add it in two years if they want us to.<sup>82</sup>

### **Ku'e: Resistance**

When the UARC was revealed to the UHM Faculty Senate on September 15, 2004, many faculty reacted with shock and disgust. Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, the former director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies criticized the administration for claiming to be a "special Hawaiian place of learning" while encouraging the University to **"link up with the greatest killing machine in the world just to get \$50 million."** She urged the faculty to resist the UARC. <sup>83</sup>

At the November 18, 2004 meeting of the UH Board of Regents, the Kualii Council, representing Native Hawaiians on the UH Manoa campus, issued a strong letter of protest against the UARC. Others raised concerns, including the UH Faculty Union and Faculty Senate.

Nevertheless, the Board of Regents voted to "provisionally approve the establishment of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa with the stipulation that full consultation is to take place and that the administration shall be required to bring this matter back to the Board for final approval." <sup>84</sup>

The Save UH / Stop UARC Coalition formed in December 2004 at the initiative of 'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition, Kualii Council and DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina. The Coalition

organized a campaign of educational activities and demonstrations that culminated in a weeklong occupation of the UH President's office in the Spring of 2005 to demand the cancellation of the UARC. As a result of the overwhelming opposition to the UARC at UH, including resolutions against the UARC by both the UH Manoa Student Government and the Manoa Faculty Senate, UHM Interim Chancellor Denise Konan decided to reject the UARC contract. In a manner befitting the anti-democratic style of politics that spawned the UARC,

**President McClain overrode Konan and decided to pursue the UARC at the UH System level.** On September 14, 2007, the new UARC contract resurfaced. The Board of Regents will vote on the contract September 27, 2007. The Senator Given the enormous costs, risks and conflict brought on by Project Kai e'e / UARC, it would be natural to wonder why the University continues to chase this idea. **In a moment of candor, UH President McClain explained to anti-UARC activists on February 2, 2005 that stripped of lofty rhetoric about "academic freedom" and "national security", the UARC was about establishing Senator Inouye's "legacy".**

As the Co-chair of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Inouye has secured more money per capita in earmarks than any other state except Alaska. In 2006, Hawai'i got \$903.9 million, or \$746.05 per resident in earmarks. 85 He has added on to the Pentagon budget requests to generously provide for ONR programs such as Tactical Component Network, Modular Command Center and UESA. It appears that the projects in question were "plus ups", projects not requested by the Pentagon, but added on by Congress, usually in committee. Calls to Inouye's office for explanations of the appropriations and the programs in question were not returned. According to a July 27, 2000 press release from Senator Inouye, the Defense Appropriations Bill for the next fiscal year contained \$10 million for Cooperative Engagement Capability Improvements, \$11.5 million for new sensors for the Theater Missile Defense Program, \$10 million for UESA Signal Processing, and \$10 million for Tactical Component Network Demonstration.

In a press release dated December 6, 2001, Senator Inouye announced the appropriation of \$127 million for "Kauai defense initiatives", including \$20 million for UESA, \$20 million for Tactical Component Network, \$5 million for Optical-Electro Sensors, and \$4 million for Web Centric Warfare.

On October 16, 2002, Senator Inouye announced the additional appropriations for ONR's network centric warfare programs at PMRF: \$29.75 million for Tactical Component Network Applications Integration, \$12.75 million for Ultra High Frequency Electronically Scanned Antenna, \$12.75 million for the Modular Command Center (Paul Schultz's innovation), and \$6.8 million for E-2C (Hawkeye surveillance aircraft) Technical Upgrade for Optimized Radar. A Navy RDT&E N Budget Item Justification Sheet (February 2004) showed that in FY2003, \$28,515,000 was expended for "the integration of the TCN at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) to support networking for the Navy's cooperative engagement capability demonstrations."

According to Senator Inouye's press release dated September 25, 2003, he added more money in the Defense Appropriations Bill for TCN and UESA for FY2004. These plus-up projects included: \$10.75 million for Advanced Integrated Radar Electronics and Photonics – a follow up

program to UESA, \$5 million for Network Application Integration Facility (NAIF) – a global TCN concept demonstration project, and \$4.5 million for Network Centric Warfare Testbed.

*Inouye's generosity to the military technology industries was reciprocated by many of the beneficiaries of these appropriations. In the 2004 election cycle, Inouye received \$61,200 in campaign contributions from the defense electronics sector, the third highest recipient in the Senate and tenth highest of all federal candidates. 86*

**His contributions of \$56,900 from the defense aerospace sector ranked seventh in the Senate and thirteenth among all federal candidates. Between 2001 and 2006, at least five of the top twenty sources of contributions to Inouye's campaign were defense contractors: Lockheed Martin ranked third and provided \$24,200, Boeing ranked fifth and gave \$20,800, Novasol ranked sixth and gave \$18,000, Raytheon, ranked twelfth and gave \$14,000, and Northrop Grumman ranked seventeenth and gave \$13,000. Between 2002 and 2005, employees of Lockheed Martin's Orincon subsidiary gave significant contributions to support Hawai'i Congregational candidates and the State Democratic Party: \$7700 to Senator Inouye's campaign, \$8800 to U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, and \$2000 to the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Larry Cutshaw, Director of Business Development for Lockheed Martin – Orincon and husband of Kathy Cutshaw, UH Manoa Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Operations, gave \$1300 to Inouye's campaign, \$1500 to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and \$1250 to Abercrombie. Between 2001 and 2005, Gary Godshalk, General Manager of Lockheed Martin – Orincon Hawaii gave \$1300 to Inouye, \$5500 to Abercrombie and \$500 to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. On August 25, 2003, Solipsys executives, Warren Citrin and David Buscher each gave \$4000 to Inouye's congressional campaign. Citrin gave an additional \$1500 in January 2004. In the 2004 election cycle, Paul Schultz gave \$1000 to the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and \$1500 to Inouye. UH Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert gave Inouye's campaign \$2000 for the 2004 primary election and \$300 for the general election. On February 6, 2004, Syrmos gave \$2300 to Inouye for the primary election, which appears to have exceeded Hawai'i's 2004 contribution limit for a single election cycle.**

The Veil of Secrecy: a De Facto Cover Up

Government secrecy has obstructed the public's ability and right to know what transpired with Project Kai e'e and the UARC and to assess the full legal, fiscal and ethical implications of the UARC endeavor. In October and November of 2005, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) submitted several information requests under the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA) to UH and RCUH seeking documents specifically related the contracts and grants in question. As of August 15, 2006, very little information has been released about these contracts. In a November 10, 2005 response to AFSC, Michael Hamnett, Executive Director of RCUH, wrote "We have been advised by the federal sponsor of the above contracts [UESA and N00421-03-C-0013] that it is within their domain to make the decision on what information, if any, is subject to release." RCUH claimed that it was waiting for UH's permission to release information about several UH grants. In a subsequent letter, RCUH conveyed UH's position that "Any information (classified or unclassified) pertaining to this contract shall not be released for public dissemination except as provided by the Industrial Security Manual or unless it has been

approved for release by appropriate Government authority.” In a November 14, 2005 response to AFSC, Trisha M. Kimura, UH Assistant General Counsel, evoked the UIPA option of incremental releases of information due to “extenuating circumstances”. She explained:

We believe that this situation falls under HAR 2-71-15. Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) Chapter 92F does not require disclosure of government records that, by their nature, must be confidential in order for government to avoid the frustration of a legitimate government function. ...In addition, Chapter 92F also contains an exception from disclosure where compliance with any provision of this chapter would cause an agency to lose or be denied funding, services, or other assistance from the federal government.

**Whether intentional or not, in this case government secrecy and the destruction of documents has amounted to a de facto cover up of essential information for evaluating the ethical and legal conduct of a public institution and the potential risks involved in becoming a UARC. The frustration of public information requests exemplifies the dangers of the proposed UARC contract with its intrinsic secret classification.**

**Conclusion: “Mai huli kou kua i ke kai - Don’t turn your back toward the ocean.” 87**

**A lingering cloud hangs over the UARC due the deeply troubling allegations of fraud, abuse and mismanagement involving several Navy-funded research programs at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) and Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) that were precursors to the UARC.** This report begins to uncover the hidden story of the creation of the UARC so that the public and decision-makers can fully consider the potential risks and liabilities of this endeavor.

### **Key Findings:**

1. Navy, RCUH and UH officials were engaged in highly questionable and irregular practices, some of which may have been unethical and/or illegal, involving several Navy-sponsored research and development programs at UH and RCUH that were intended to become a UARC. The evidence suggests that an Office of Naval Research (ONR) program manager may have padded the budgets of two Navy grants awarded to UH. The ONR official allegedly ordered UH researchers to hire at least four additional personnel to work on research projects that were only tangentially related to the specific purposes of their grants. These Navy-directed personnel made up a team that was involved in developing a much larger sensor integration program called Project Kai e‘e that was to be run through RCUH and involved programs at the Pacific Missile Range Facility. The ONR official allegedly worked closely with a Navy Admiral in command of several Naval divisions in the Pacific and directed personnel decisions and supervised the work of this research team. The Navy-directed research team was not accountable to the UH researchers who were the Principal Investigators of the grants. Allegedly, this arrangement was intended to cloak several controversial projects – TCN and MCC – from hostile elements within the Navy in order to establish a more permanent program with secure funding. These plans were apparently foiled, although the details are as yet unknown. Project Kai e‘e was withdrawn by RCUH for unknown reasons, although the circumstances surrounding its termination suggest that there may have been an attempt to

avoid implication in possible wrongdoing and that disciplinary measures may have been involved. Subsequently, parts of the Navy-sponsored programs in question at UH and RCUH were classified in an irregular way that resulted in one of the UH principal investigators being removed from his two Navy-sponsored projects. The irregular handling of classified information prompted the UH Facility Security Officer to file a report with federal authorities, which initiated a Navy criminal investigation of the Navy program manager and at least three Navy-sponsored UH and RCUH programs. There may have been conflicts of interest involving RCUH having a contract to provide technical services to the Navy at the same time that it was receiving research contracts from this same Navy office. There is also the questionable relationship between the ONR program manager and a senior Navy officer whose pet projects may have received funding from the same ONR program manager. The key persons at the center of this scheme were Mun Won Chang Fenton, Rear Admiral Paul S. Schultz, and Harold Masumoto. Vassilis **Syrmos** and John Monacci were key as technical and scientific personnel. Although it is unclear what Senator Daniel Inouye knew about MCC, TCN and Project Kai e'e, his appropriations of funds provided the crucial funding and political muscle for the programs to proceed.

2. The goal of the Navy-sponsored programs in question and the Project Kai e'e proposal was the establishment of a UARC at UH. The evidence is clear that the long-range goal of this secret team was to establish a permanent federal research center, i.e. the UARC, which would have access to nonbid monopoly research funds. The Navy-sponsored programs in question were intended to "establish a relationship" between the Navy and UH/RCUH that would enable RCUH to bid for a larger "capacity contract" known as Project Kai e'e. In turn Project Kai e'e was intended to evolve into a UARC.
3. The irregular and questionable sole source award of a UARC contract to the University of Hawai'i contradicts federal regulations and Department of Defense guidelines and may be an illegal procurement. Federal regulations and Department of Defense guidelines generally require full and open competition for contracts. While Federal Acquisition Regulations contain an exception to the full and open competition requirement for UARCs once they are established, Department of Defense guidelines and institutional practices have required competition in the selection of new UARC contracts. In all known recently awarded UARC contracts except this one, federal agencies have engaged in full and open competition. The procurement of the UARC to UH appears to be in violation of Department of Defense guidance documents. The Navy has not provided proof that the sole source procurement of the UARC award was properly justified and certified.
4. Several of the Navy-sponsored programs in question appear to have been Congressional earmarks. The original funding for the MCC, CEC/TCN and UESA projects that are implicated in the investigation came from Congressional earmarks. This means that these budget items were specified by Congress, were not requested by the Navy in its budget request, and were added on without public hearings or discussion. Once the appropriations for these projects became law, the Navy was required to spend the funds

as directed. The lack of transparency and accountability with earmarks has confounded public understanding of Project Kai e'e/UARC.

5. The UH administration failed to provide the necessary oversight and controls over RCUH and the Navy-sponsored programs in question. Notwithstanding protestations of innocence, UH administrators failed to provide adequate oversight of RCUH's conduct in performing administrative services for Navy-sponsored research projects at UH. The questionable practice of facilitating Navy-directed personnel decisions on UH grants is one example.

Furthermore, UH leadership allowed RCUH officials to make major plans and commitments with the Navy that significantly involved the UH system and that raised major policy and liability questions for UH without consulting UH constituencies and deliberative bodies. The decision to pursue the UARC came from RCUH in collaboration with the Navy. With its inherent classification, the UARC raises serious contradictions for UH. RCUH officials knew this but continued to pursue the UARC anyway with the consent of UH administrators. The decision to pursue the UARC contract was made long before it was brought before the Board of Regents, the faculty or the students. UH administrators have blurred the lines between UH and RCUH thereby avoiding accountability. As President McClain has sometimes stated, and as the State Auditor also determined, RCUH falls firmly within and is the responsibility of the UH system. However, when questions of accountability and transparency have been raised about RCUH, UH administrators have feigned ignorance and impotence regarding the "autonomous" actions of RCUH. As a result, UH administrators have allowed RCUH officials to act as a rogue division of the University undertaking initiatives that ultimately affect the reputation and implicate the entire UH system. Assuming that UH administrators had no prior knowledge of the questionable activities related to Project Kai e'e, their failure to disclose information and address the connection between the Navy investigation, Project Kai e'e and the UARC when it was brought to their attention amounts to willful ignorance and a failure of leadership.

**The secrecy surrounding the projects in question and the misleading and false statements made by some UH officials about the UARC's relationship to these projects, suggest the possibility of a cover up of potentially incriminating information. The secrecy surrounding the questionable projects and events leading up to the creation of the UARC amounts to a de facto cover up of possible wrongdoing and leaves open the lingering question of whether the cover up was intentional.**

### **Recommendations**

1. Since the UARC proposal is an outgrowth of possible illegal activities related to Project Kai e'e, the University of Hawai'i and the Navy should cancel the UARC altogether. Even if federal investigators eventually conclude that no criminal activity took place, the secrecy, misinformation and questionable actions of the parties involved have destroyed all public trust and confidence in the project.
2. UH, RCUH and the Navy should immediately disclose all relevant documents as a first step to repairing public trust in government.

3. The State of Hawai‘i should initiate an independent investigation and audit of the research programs related to Project Kai e‘e/UARC to determine what happened and why, and to make recommendations to protect the integrity of UH research endeavors in the future, especially in the areas of transparency and fiscal and academic accountability. *The Dirty Secret About UARC* 60
4. The State and University should make necessary changes, as recommended by the independent investigators, including changes to ensure the accountability of RCUH as well as independent but closely related organizations, like PICHTR, which received outsourced military research contracts forwarded from RCUH.
5. The Hawai‘i Congressional delegation should require and make public a full and transparent reporting on all earmarks requested and funded for Hawai‘i based projects, starting with the ONR projects in question. Furthermore, the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation should support “**earmark reform**” to create restrictions and create greater transparency and accountability for earmarks.

In a recent New York Times article about earmark reform Senator Inouye said, “If something is wrong we should clean house.” The Project Kai e‘e / UARC scandal demonstrates that something is clearly wrong and that it is time to “clean house”. The Project Kai e‘e/UARC scandal was not an isolated incident **caused by rogue individuals. These plans involved the active participation or tacit support of powerful individuals and institutions that consistently and systematically used their power to steer non-competed federal funds to military programs in Hawai‘i, without regard for those most impacted or careful consideration of the consequences.**

One former TRW missile defense engineer who exposed fraud in missile defense tests, made a harsh assessment of her program that might as easily apply to Project Kai e‘e/UARC: **“It’s not a defense of the United States...It’s a conspiracy to allow them to milk the government. They are creating for themselves a job for life.”** 88

Warren Citrin, the founding CEO of Solipsys and an inventor of the TCN platform came to a similar conclusion.

*He called the **whole military research system a “jobs program”**. He said, that while at first he believed that he had genuine supporters of his work, he later concluded that **his company and invention were being used self-servingly by certain individuals.** He described it bitterly: **“Pick up an ‘orphaned’ program and use it to establish yourself.” “They didn’t want a system that worked,” said Citrin. “They wanted the contracts to continue.” He summed it up as “malfeasance”**.*

And Rich McSheehy, who was “Fenton’s right hand” but now writes novels and applications for cell phones said:



***“The whole thing is corrupt. They’re all corrupt. That’s why I got out of it. I won’t work with those people again.” Project Kai e’e/UARC, like so many other recent defense contract scandals, may be another example of how government secrecy, lucrative contracts and unchecked political, corporate and military power create an irresistible temptation to corruption. The problem of corruption in military contracting may be the normal outcome of a deeply flawed system based on tragically misplaced priorities. Even if the Navy declines to pursue criminal charges, the whole affair has 88. Nira Schwartz quoted in William D. Hartung and Michelle Ciarrocca, Tangled Web: The Marketing of Missile Defense 1994-2000, A Special Issue Brief, Arms Trade Resource Center, May 2000. The Dirty Secret About UARC 61 revealed the vulnerabilities of military contract-driven research and should stimulate a tough, urgent and critical reevaluation of the dangers of the military-industrial complex in Hawai‘i. It is unknown what the creators of Project Kai e’e had in mind when they decided to name their project after the Native Hawaiian word for tsunami. Perhaps they believed that their program might be awesome and unstoppable like a tsunami. But this would have been sheer hubris. Some were swept away by the “big wave” or eaten by “the large and unfamiliar fishes” they conjured up. The UARC is the second wave that could unleash destructive forces on UH and Hawai‘i. As the struggle over the UARC and the future of UH continues to rage, UH constituencies are alert to the danger!***

### **Current Conflicts of Interest by Regents**

Lockheed Martin’s Orincon subsidiary and its employee Mr. Cutshaw, who was married to UH Vice Chancellor for Budget Kathy Cutshaw gave over \$10,000 in political donations to then Congressman Neil **Abercrombie** from 2002-2005.

During the BOR’s February Board meetings at UH-Hilo, Regent **Abercrombie** went on a tirade and demanded the University of Hawai‘i students to, “Do your homework” and went on to champion the ARL at UH and the original UARC contract with VPRI **Syrmos** while chastising the UH students. (Please see the transcription earlier in my testimony.)

The Dirty UH UARC submission has already done the homework for them. Regent **Abercrombie** is both conflicted out from any vote on any aspect of a pending ARL at UH contract and he needs to refrain from poisoning the (Red Hill) proverbial well with other Regents with his lengthy pontifications about UARC and how UH and the congressional delegation “won” a competitive funding war with the already existing and operating University of New Mexico personnel regarding the NAVSEA contract.

It is simply not true.

The Dirty UH UARC supplies all the actual and accurate evidence that it is diametrically opposite from Regent **Abercrombie**’s “passionate” speech and VPRI **Syrmos** bolstering engagement with him.

It is also requested if any other Regent has a conflict of interest regarding the ARL at UH/UARC vote today to please recuse yourself. In the past, there was a Regent who retired from the Navy to work at and become the MHPCC 's Executive Director. The records of MHPCC between 2001-2019 are impossible to discover because they have been destroyed (allegation). Time constraints prevent further research on this topic at present moment.

### **UARCs: The American Universities that Produce Warfighters**

<https://monthlyreview.org/2024/09/01/uarcs-the-american-universities-that-produce-warfighters/#en26backlink>

In this September, 2024 article, author Sylvia Martin reviews the history of UARCs and the current pressures to disclose and divest from war efforts through universities:

The University of Southern California (USC) has been one of the most prominent campuses for student protests against Israel's campaign in Gaza, with students demanding that their university "fully disclose and divest its finances and endowment from companies and institutions that profit from Israeli apartheid, genocide, and occupation in Palestine, including the US Military and weapons manufacturing."<sup>3</sup> USC also happens to be home to one of the nation's fifteen UARCs, the Institute of Creative Technology (ICT), which describes itself as a "trusted advisor to the DoD."<sup>4</sup> ICT is not mentioned in the students' statement, yet the institute—and UARCs at other universities—are one of the many moving parts of the U.S. war machine that are nestled within higher education institutions, and a manifestation of the Pentagon's "mission creep" that encompasses the arts as well as the sciences.<sup>5</sup>

Significantly, ICT's remit to develop dual-use technologies (which claim to provide society-wide "solutions") **entails nurturing what the Institute refers to as "warfighters" for the battlefields of the future, and, in doing so, to increase warfighters' "lethality."**<sup>6</sup> Established by the DoD in 1999 to pursue advanced modeling and simulation and training, ICT's basic and applied research produces prototypes, technologies, and know-how that have been deployed for the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. From artificial intelligence-driven virtual humans deployed to teach military leadership skills to futuristic 3D spatial visualization and terrain capture to prepare these military agencies for their operational environments, ICT specializes in immersive training programs for "mission rehearsal," as well as tools that contribute to the digital innovations of global warmaking.<sup>7</sup> *Technologies and programs developed at ICT were used by U.S. troops in the U.S.-led Global War on Terror. One such program is UrbanSim, a virtual training application initiated in 2006 designed to improve army commanders' skills for conducting counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, delivering fictional scenarios through a gaming experience.*<sup>8</sup>

I encountered ICT's work while conducting anthropological research on the relationship between the U.S. military and the media entertainment industry in Los Angeles.<sup>9</sup> The Institute is located not on the university's main University Park campus but by the coast, in Playa Vista, alongside offices for Google and Hulu. Although ICT is an approximately thirty-minute drive from USC's main campus, this hub for U.S. warfighter lethality was enabled by an interdisciplinary collaboration with what was then called the School of Cinema-Television and the Annenberg

School for Communications, and it remains entrenched within USC's academic ecosystem, designated as a unit of its Viterbi School of Engineering, which is located on the main campus.<sup>10</sup> Given the presence and power of UARCs at U.S. universities, we can reasonably ask: What is the difference between West Point Military Academy and USC, a supposedly civilian university? The answer, it seems, is not a difference in kind, but in degree. Indeed, universities with UARCs appear to be veritable military academies...

Significantly, UARCs are mandated to maintain a close and enduring relationship with their military or federal sponsor, such as that of ICT with the U.S. Army. These close relationships are intended to facilitate the UARCs' "in-depth knowledge of the agency's research needs...access to sensitive information, and the ability to respond quickly to emerging research areas."<sup>17</sup> Such an intimate partnership for institutions of higher learning with these agencies means that the line between academic and military research is (further) blurred. With the interdisciplinarity of researchers and the integration of PhD students (and even undergraduate interns) into UARC operations such as USC's ICT, the **question of whether the needs of the DoD are prioritized over those of an ostensibly civilian institute of higher learning practically becomes moot: the entanglement is naturalized by a national security logic.**

ICT later moved to nearby Playa Vista, part of Silicon Beach, where the military presence also increased; by April 2016, the U.S. Army Research Lab West opened next door to ICT as another collaborative partner, further integrating the university into military work.<sup>19</sup> This university-military partnership results in **"prototypes that successfully transition into the hands of warfighters"**; UARCs such as ICT are thus rendered a crucial link in what graduate student worker Isabel Kain from the Researchers Against War collective calls the "military supply chain."<sup>20</sup>

Furthermore, Writing in *Mānoa Now* about the proposed UARC in 2005, Leo Azumbuja opined that "it seems like ideological suicide to allow the Navy to settle on campus, especially the American Navy."<sup>25</sup> A key player in the Indo-Pacific Command, the U.S. Navy has long had a contentious relationship with Indigenous Hawaiians, most recently with the 2021 fuel leakage from the Navy's Red Hill fuel facility, resulting in water contamination levels that the Hawai'i State Department of Health referred to as "a humanitarian and environmental disaster."<sup>26</sup> Court depositions have since revealed that the Navy knew about the fuel leakage into the community's drinking water but waited over a week to inform the public, even as people became ill, making opposition to its proposed UARC unsurprising, if not requisite.<sup>27</sup> The detonation of bombs and sonar testing that happens at the biennial international war games that the U.S. Navy has hosted in Hawai'i since 1971 have also damaged precious marine life and culturally sacred ecosystems, with the sonar tests causing whales to "swim hundreds of miles, rapidly change their depth (sometimes leading to bleeding from the eyes and ears), and even beach themselves to get away from the sounds of sonar."<sup>28</sup> Within this context, one of the proposed UARC's core competencies was "understanding of [the] ocean environment."<sup>29</sup>

UH Mānoa's rationale for resistance begs the question: how could this university—indeed, any university—impose this military force onto its community? Are civilian universities within the United States merely an illusion, a deflection from education in the service of empire? What anthropologist Catherine Lutz called in 2009 the ethos of "the military normal" in U.S. culture

toward its counterinsurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—the commonsensical, even prosaic perspective on the inevitability of endless U.S.-led wars disseminated by U.S. institutions, especially mainstream media—helps explain the attitude toward this particular formalized capture of the university by the DoD.<sup>35</sup> Defense funding has for decades permeated universities, but UARCs perpetuate the military normal by allowing the Pentagon to insert itself through research centers and institutes in the (seemingly morally neutral) name of innovation, within part of a broader neoliberal framework of universities as “engines” and “hubs,” or “anchor” institutions that offer to “leverage” their various forms of capital toward regional development in ways that often escape sustained scrutiny or critique.<sup>36</sup> The normalization is achieved in some cases given that UARCs such as ICT strive to serve civilian needs as well as military ones with dual-use technologies and tools. Yet with the U.S. creation of the national security state in 1947 and its pursuit of techno-nationalism since the Cold War, UARCs are direct pipelines to the intensification of U.S. empire. Some of the higher-profile virtual military instructional programs developed at ICT at USC, such as its Emergent Leader Immersive Training Environment (ELITE) system, which provides immersive role-playing to train army leaders for various situations in the field, are funneled to explicitly military-only learning institutions such as the Army Warrant Officer School.<sup>37</sup>

Partnering with the U.S. Air Force, Howard University’s UARC is receiving a five-year, \$90 million contract to conduct AI research and develop tactical autonomy technology. Its Research Institute for Tactical Autonomy (RITA) leads a consortium of eight other HCBUs. As with the University of Hawai’i, STEM advantages are touted by the UARC, with RITA’s reach expanding in other ways: it plans to supplement STEM education for K–12 students to “ease their path to a career in the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, tactical autonomy, and machine learning.” noting that undergraduate and graduate students will also be able to pursue fully funded research opportunities at their UARC. With the corporatization of universities, neoliberal policies prioritize STEM for practical reasons, including the pursuit of university rankings and increases in both corporate and government funding. This fits well with increased linkages to the defense sector, which offers capital, jobs, technology, and gravitas. In a critique of Howard University’s central role for the DoD through its new UARC, Erica Caines at *Black Agenda Report* invokes the “legacies of Black resistance” at Howard University in a call to reduce “the state’s use of HCBUs.”<sup>39</sup>

With their respectability and resources, universities, through UARCs, provide ideological cover for U.S. warmaking and imperialistic actions, offering up student labor at undergraduate and graduate levels in service of that cover. When nearly eight hundred U.S. military bases around the world are cited as evidence of U.S. empire and the DoD requires research facilities to be embedded within places of higher learning, it is reasonable to expect that university communities—ostensibly civilian institutions—ask questions about UARC goals and operations, and how they provide material support and institutional gravitas to these military and federal agencies.<sup>41</sup> In the case of USC, ICT’s stated goal of enhancing warfighter lethality runs counter to current USC student efforts to strive for more equitable conditions on campus and within its larger community (for example, calls to end “land grabs,” and “targeted repression and harassment of Black, Brown and Palestinian students and their allies on and off campus”) as well as other reductions in institutional harms.<sup>42</sup>

Many students and members of U.S. society want to connect the dots, as evident from the nationwide protests and encampments, and a push from within the academy to examine the military supply chain is intensifying. In addition to Researchers Against War members calling out the militarized research that flourishes in U.S. universities, the Hopkins Justice Collective at Johns Hopkins University recently proposed a demilitarization process to its university's Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee that cited Johns Hopkins's UARC, Applied Physics Lab, as being the "sole source" of DoD funding for the development and testing of AI-guided drone swarms used against Palestinians in 2021.<sup>43</sup> Meanwhile, at UH Mānoa, the struggle continues: in February 2024, the Associated Students' Undergraduate Senate approved a resolution requesting that the university's Board of Regents terminate UH's UARC contract, noting that UH's own president is the principal investigator for a \$75 million High Performance Computer Center for the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory that was contracted by the university's UARC, Applied Research Laboratory.<sup>44</sup> Researchers Against War organizing, the Hopkins Justice Collective's proposal, the undaunted UH Mānoa students, and others help pinpoint the flows of militarized knowledge—knowledge that is developed by **UARCs to strengthen warfighters from within U.S. universities, through the DoD, and to different parts of the world.**<sup>45</sup>

In the bold and highlights above provide are some of the exact language used in the draft UH/UARC Strategic Plan 2030.

One of the most revealing and disturbing aspects of Dr. Robyn Garner's written testimony is the date it was written, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. How could Dr. Garner know what was on the Board of Regent's agenda for September 19<sup>th</sup>, when it wasn't published to the public until the afternoon of September 13<sup>th</sup>? This is exactly what occurred on September 5<sup>th</sup> when the ARL at UH employees were testifying in support of a ten-year NAVSEA contract extension. How could they know about the contract extension before September 13<sup>th</sup> posting of the BOR agenda for September 19<sup>th</sup>?

In the corporate world, this is referred to as "insider trading", and it's illegal; in this case it's simply "corrupt" and a violation of Chapter 91 of the HRS.

The document Dr. Garner submitted as part of her written testimony is also very damaging to PI/UH President Lassner because she is admitting to the document's existence and the track changes above state, "Not sure if this should come from the University President or an outside Source, such as NAVSEA." She also states it's stand DoD language, which is the whole point. So, where is the UH/UARC 2030 Strategic Plan PI/President Lassner and VPRI **Syroms**? Dr. Garner's testimony suggests she does not know what happened to the draft. Certainly the UH Board of Regents should be privy to the UH/UARC 2030 Strategic Plan? How about the UH students? How about the UH faculty? How about UH staff? How about the PUBLIC? Penetrating inquires that will meet with the usual silence of this regime.

The Board of Regents might also consider why is there so many testimonies from students in Thailand at Naresuan University? Normally, this would not draw suspicion however as defense attorneys say, if you open the door on questions, then you can cross-examine. In this specific case, the poignant questions revolve around an ARL at UH employee that the ARL at UH

Director Edwards allows to work from Thailand for three (3) months of the year because his wife was sponsored by the Thai government to complete her PhD at UH. It seems suspicious that appreciate the template reads, "I appreciate in-person visits by ARL researchers that build community across the Pacific." A deeper investigation is warranted regarding what is really happening and does it meet all the RCUH policies, ARL at UH employee requirements and the obscene bolstering of numbers to testify in favor of ARL at UH on the September 19<sup>th</sup> agenda.

## 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) \*

Brad Thomas

Your Organization (optional)

MHPCC

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

brad.thomas.ctr@mhpsc.hpc.mil

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,

My name is Brad Thomas, and I serve as the Senior Networking Engineer at the Vanguard Center for High Performance Computing on Maui (have worked here for about 20 years), an ARL UH project.

I am in strong support of the ARL UH. I was raised in the Big Island and the majority of the staff here is local (mostly Maui and other islands), not to mention the hundreds of local interns we've hired over the years which has given them outstanding experience while attending college at UH.

MHPCC's role in the DoD is crucial because of the many cyber security, AI, and other related projects and initiatives we are collaborating on with the military- AF, Navy, Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command,

USINDOPACOM etc.

Providing many jobs to the local community is one of the biggest reasons I support ARL (team size has doubled in the past 5 years as MHPCC generates a lot of revenue). In my opinion - it would be pretty devastating for a lot of reasons to lose any of these capabilities of which ARL is managing. Mahalo for your time.

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

No file attached





BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## September 19, 2024 Agenda Item C Request for Indemnify U.S. Navy

1 message

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**A C** <aryana.org@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 8:17 AM

Aloha Regents,

Below is my Testimony on this matter. I couldn't find your official testimony form.

**Name:** Aryana Channe (AKA Irene Lee)

**Affiliation:** University of Hawaii Alumna, Retired Faculty, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Student Affairs

**Agenda Item:** Request Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawaii

**Position:** Opposed

**Contact Information:** aryana.org@gmail.com

I am opposed to approval to indemnify the above government entity in the contract for projects with the UH Applied Research Laboratory.

Yes, of course, the University of Hawaii, those faculty and students who would directly benefit, are hungry for funds and projects. But the public interest must be paramount.

Indemnifying the Navy could potentially undermine accountability and transparency.

The U.S. military has made it very clear, in multiple situations, that they take actions which do not safeguard and honor the health and safety of our `āina and our people. To name just a few. An ongoing situation is the Red Hill water contamination which affected a significant portion of Oahu's population, including military families stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam. The contamination has reached the aquifers on Oahu. Another is the toxic dumping on the Waianae Coast by the U.S. Military into the ocean and on land. The long-term consequences are still being studied with ongoing investigation and efforts to mitigate risks.

Potential environmental and risks at all levels associated with the contract work proposed above must be closely monitored and avoided.

Indemnifying the Navy could potentially shield it from scrutiny or accountability. It is like dangling the carrot of millions of dollars of funding with "potential" extension of additional funds to manipulate for a "Get Out of Jail Free" card

The financial burdens that could be placed on taxpayers or the University of Hawaii if the Navy is indemnified could be enormous.

The call for secrecy in the name of security can be a cloak to conduct business that does not benefit our community and `āina. Let the U.S. Navy award the contract with the assumption of full responsibility for operating ethically, transparently, with the public interest and safety held paramount when they ask to collaborate with our public university..

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Mahalo  
Aryana Channe  
M.A., MEd.

□



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Sept 19 BoR ASUH Testimony

1 message

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**Sonja Giardina** <sonjagia@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 8:11 AM

Aloha kākou,

I am attaching testimony below on behalf of ASUH in opposition of Agenda Item VII.C.

Sonja Giardina

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 **Sept 19 BoR ASUH Testimony.pdf**  
446K



**ASUH**  
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i  
**YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

September 19, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Sonja Giardina, ASUH Senator of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Opposition to: **Agenda Item VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Sonja Giardina and I am providing testimony today on behalf of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) as the Vice Chair of the External Affairs committee and as the ASUH Senator for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology.

ASUH opposes Agenda Item VII.C., which requests approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for the Proposed Contract (N00024-24-D6402) with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Hawai'i.

On February 7, 2024, ASUH unanimously passed Senate Resolution 06-24, demanding that the UH no longer serve as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC).<sup>1</sup> This resolution details ASUH's support of academic freedom, full transparency over research conducted within a Public Institution, and opposition of the conduct of classified military research within the UH System.

Previously, in 2005, when UARC negotiations were initially occurring, ASUH passed Senate Resolution 11-05, which urged the University of Hawai'i to abandon establishing a UARC. That year, the Mānoa Faculty Senate also passed a resolution calling for the University to not establish a UARC<sup>2</sup> and students and faculty conducted a seven-day sit-in at Bachman Hall in opposition to military research at the University and to the establishment of a UARC<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://78ec3197-cf7f-4a36-9a0e-8686c1c9929b.usrfiles.com/ugd/78ec31\\_6e1d45a372214742b340968bcd3eab70.pdf](https://78ec3197-cf7f-4a36-9a0e-8686c1c9929b.usrfiles.com/ugd/78ec31_6e1d45a372214742b340968bcd3eab70.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Tolentino, Blaine. "Faculty Senate Passes Resolution Opposing UARC." Ka Leo O Hawaii, ManoaNow, 17 Nov. 2005, [https://www.manoanow.org/faculty-senate-passes-resolution-opposing-uarc/article\\_96ea3efd-0893-5184-9d34-edb2545a00d6.html](https://www.manoanow.org/faculty-senate-passes-resolution-opposing-uarc/article_96ea3efd-0893-5184-9d34-edb2545a00d6.html)

<sup>3</sup> Grass, Julie. "UARC Protesters Sit-in at Bachman Hall." Mānoa Now, 29 Apr. 2005,



# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

On September 27, 2007, despite opposition from students, faculty, and testifiers, the UH Board of Regents initially approved the establishment of the ARL as an administrative unit in the UH system<sup>4</sup>. Again in 2013, the US Navy contract with ARL was renewed without public input<sup>5</sup>.

In this current contract renewal period, the Board of Regents refuses to be transparent regarding the contract renewal process with ARL, and has not made the contract publicly available. ASUH demands the Board of Regents to provide this information publicly, and conduct this process transparently, as those before us have urged. We also request that the Board of Regents reduces the autonomy granted to the UH President to make decisions regarding the UARC contract without public input throughout the process.

The DOD provides millions of dollars in funding to the ARL, with 96% of the UARC being directly funded by military agencies. We have real concerns regarding the influence this gives the US military over the content and classification of scientific research at UH, especially given the upgrading of ARL's security clearance to "top secret" in the 2018 contract renewal<sup>6</sup>.

The Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) is the elected body representing approximately 11,000 full-time classified undergraduate students at Mānoa. As students, we are key stakeholders in the decisions that UH makes to enter and renew contracts with the DOD at a public educational institution. ASUH is one of the four recognized organizations at UH, and we demand that our voices be heard in order for meaningful, transparent dialogue to take place regarding this contract renewal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Sonja Giardina  
112th ASUH Senator of SOEST

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[https://www.manoanow.org/uarc-protesters-sit-in-at-bachman-hall/article\\_bcecf05a-7bc8-5bfd-ab75-28b31f17b527.html](https://www.manoanow.org/uarc-protesters-sit-in-at-bachman-hall/article_bcecf05a-7bc8-5bfd-ab75-28b31f17b527.html)

<sup>4</sup> Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes, 27-28 Sept. 2007, accessed Feb. 8, 2024,

<https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/regular/minute/20070927.regular.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Trifonovitch, Kelli Abe. "UH Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) Contract Extended." University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 16 July 2013, [www.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=5863](http://www.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=5863).

<sup>6</sup> Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes, 24 May, 2018, pp. 15, accessed Feb. 8, 2024,

[https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/research/materials/201805241030/Cmte\\_on\\_Research\\_and\\_Innovation\\_05\\_24\\_18\\_Meeting\\_Materials\\_FOR\\_UPLOAD.pdf](https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/research/materials/201805241030/Cmte_on_Research_and_Innovation_05_24_18_Meeting_Materials_FOR_UPLOAD.pdf)

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*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) \*

Kai Jones

Your Organization (optional)

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

kaijones@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

As someone who collaborated with the ARL as an undergraduate and graduate student, it gave me a unique, fun, and engaging opportunity to apply what I learn in my classes to real-world engineering applications within the maritime robotics domain. Additionally, I've heard of other students who are/were in similar positions as me and gained significant valuable skillsets through application. I would not be in the profession I am in today without this experience. Indemnifying the ARL without a full picture of the reasons why can impact student education and opportunities.

## 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) \*

Kyla-Marie Kauhahao

Your Organization (optional)

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

turner20@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

**Comments on** Agenda Item IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and **Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, US. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

TO: The University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

**Comments on** Agenda Item IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate; and

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, US. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i

Aloha e Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Kyla-Marie Kauhahao, and I am a graduate student of UH Hilo. I am also a kanaka 'ōiwi, kanaka maoli, Native Hawaiian. I write to you again as a concerned student of the university and a concerned youth of Hawai'i. I am writing to both provide comments on Agenda Item IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate AND to oppose Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, US. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i. This is my sincere plea with the honorable members in attendance today to hear those just like myself here who are concerned. To hear us.

**Agenda Item IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate**

As a civically engaged youth of Hawai'i who has been immersed on social media into the horrors which has been inflicted upon the people of Palestine for over 75 years, I am concerned with the University's relationship with Israel and its continued failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza, as well as the role Israel plays in the violence going on in Lebanon and Iran. For the University to be in a strategic relationship with such a "country"—which has been proven by the International Court of Justice to not only be illegally occupying Palestinian territories, but also violating international prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid, while also being considered by the ICJ for committing genocide—is not only abhorrent, but colonialistic.

The University should divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships, which may/most likely will include a lot of companies that work with the U.S. military. Failure to properly address and divest from these partnerships, as well as address the genocide itself, shows that the University is aligning with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palekeine (Palestine), and undermines the University's ethical responsibility.

Also, it should be noted that students protesting the genocide of the Palestinian people is protected by students' rights to protest. I want to remind the Board of Regents this as the finalists for the next UH President's position has been announced. I hope that the next President not only understands but protects the academic freedom of the University's students, ensuring that the threat of violence and police brutality does not fall upon us as we have watched happen to so many students across the nation just before the end of last semester, simply for camping on their school grounds and occupying space to communicate to their universities what I am now asking of my own university in writing.

We, the students of the University of Hawai'i, demand that the University prove that it truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice through ending its complicity in the atrocities that have been unfolding over the last year and protecting the constitutional rights of its students.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, US. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

I am opposing this agenda item not only because it is unquestionable how shady and irresponsible it is for the Board of Regents to indemnify the Federal Government and the Navy for a contract that has only been proposed and yet to be reviewed by the public and the Regents, but also because of the unaddressed concerns raised by the community in regards to the continued partnership between the UH and the ARL, as well as the UH and the United States military. These two things honestly play hand-in-hand, as the University

had yet to truly address and create an open conversation with the communities across Hawai'i about their feelings in regards to the continued partnership with the United States military, especially the Hawaiian community. As a youth of Hawai'i, and as a kanaka maoli, I understand that I don't know everything about partnerships and funding and strategic relationships, but what no one at the University has yet been able to answer is why these partnerships exist other than for the benefit of the institutions.

As a Indigenous young woman in Hawai'i, I know all too well the struggles of seeing my people continuously denied access to our homeland, or seeing the way in which our 'āina is treated in the hands of the United States Military. Mākua valley, Kapukaki (Red Hill), and Pōhakuloa are just examples of the history of extraction, desecration, lack of understanding, etc., when it comes to the military in Hawai'i. And with the way in which the military functions with changing orders, deployments, and assignments of commanders and generals who are rarely ever from Hawai'i, the local communities of Hawai'i and Hawaiians are left repeatedly having to re-explain and re-beg our position on the military's presence here over and over again, until our tears turn angry and our voices turn loud.

Yet, despite all of the effort, our voices are left unheard and unaddressed by the very University, the public university, which serves Hawai'i. And as much as I love the University and the opportunity which it provided and is still providing me to gain a wonderful education in my own homeland...I cannot ignore the shame and disappointment I feel when shady and irresponsible things like this go on, especially in such a manner that lacks broad and clear transparency. The public and regents should be allowed ample time to thoroughly review and comment on a contract between the UH and the U.S. Navy/Federal Government, especially when not only the indemnification of the contract is being considered, but also when there is much still left unanswered and unaddressed in regards to the continued partnership between the UH and the U.S. Military.

To be as clear as possible, I am opposing and calling for the postponement of the indemnification of the proposed contract and calling on the Board of Regents to 1) allow themselves and the public more time to review and comment on the contract, 2) create better transparency when such impactful agenda items arise, especially agenda items that include partnerships/contracts that the University is undertaking in the name of research, science, education, etc., and 3) to create, as the institution in this situation, avenues for open conversations between the UH and Community about the various concerns they have, especially when it comes to concerns about the military or strategic relationships that the UH holds.

As a Native Hawaiian graduate of this university who is actively seeing a shift in the world we live in, I want to remind the regents that our university impacts the broader community. Everything within our pae 'āina is impacted by the choices you make, but also by how you make them. The UH System plays a huge role in our academic and economic spheres in Hawai'i. Which means that the UH holds significant kuleana to basically all of Hawai'i. It is time for the higher powers of the UH show an understanding of that kuleana in the deepest sense of the word, even if it means forfeiting or divesting from contracts, deals, and the capitalistic approach of running a university, in order to fulfill that kuleana. Because all good things, truly good things, do not come without sacrifice.

Mahalo nui for your time, and for hearing me today. Mahalo nui loa.  
Me ka leo o nā 'aumākua,  
Kyla-Marie KT Kauhahao  
'Amama, Ua Noa.

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

**Kauhahao Testimony 09.19.24.pdf (80.2 kB)**



## 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) \*

K. Nishimura

Your Organization (optional)

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

43storieshi@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

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

**Please take into serious consideration the fact that nearly 100 percent of the testimonies that claim to support BOR - VII.C. (Approval to Indemnify...) do NOT actually offer support for the Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, NAVSEA. Instead, these so-called supporters only offer support for the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL).**

**Stating that one supports the ARL does not equate to support of approval to indemnify the federal government, et. al.**

**I can believe the ARL does work that benefits our community; however I OPPOSE the request for “Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).” The University of Hawaii should not accept the risk and conditions imposed by the federal government, in order to get a contract. For example, if the contracted work for NAVSEA involves the storage, treatment, and disposal of toxic or hazardous materials, UH would bear all the responsibility for those materials and would “hold the government harmless for all costs, liability, or penalties....”**

**As a citizen of Hawaii, who supports the work of UH in multiple capacities, I do not want to see the University accept the risks demanded by the federal government in order to receive a contract to do research for the military. Indemnity for military research is unacceptable. Please REJECT the request for approval to indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, NAVSEA.**

**Mahalo!**

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

No file attached



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Testimony September 19

1 message

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**Mariko Quinn** <marikooq@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 7:34 AM

Aloha kākou,

I'm attaching my testimony for today's BOR meeting below and will also be testifying in person.

Mahalo,  
Mariko Quinn

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 **Sept 19 BOR Meeting.pdf**  
93K

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai‘i.

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Mariko Quinn and I recently graduated from UH Mānoa in May with a degree in global environmental science and political science. I am here today to testify on agenda item 7C relating to the proposed indemnification of the Federal Government, U.S Navy and Naval Sea Systems Command.

Me and several of my peers here at this meeting have testified on this very issue several times in the last few months. Through this time, we have not been given a timeline on contract renewal, nor have we ever received any documentation of what the contract itself would outline. Despite our continued presence at these meetings asking for a transparent process, we have yet to see any type of plan for what the steps are to achieve UARC contract renewal.

Many of the written testimonies submitted in support today highlight the need for ARL in developing competitive research while also addressing environmental concerns and generating solutions. I wholeheartedly reject these claims and in fact insist that the only way that research can truly be beneficial to the ‘āina and people of Hawai‘i is if it is supported by them. For science and research to be truly beneficial as these testifiers so claim, transparency is absolutely critical to its success.

In the years before the UARC contract was originally finalized, there were extensive protests from a coalition of staff, students, faculty and community members. As a result of these protests, the Board of Regents and President put together a timeline to contract renewal which included numerous information forums that were held to make space for stakeholder input from UH affiliates and the broader community. At these meetings, held in 2006, more than 500 instances of opposition were recorded, as compared to about 130 testimonies in support of the university becoming a UARC. The documentation of opposition is well recorded and continues with extensive testimony at Board of Regents about the issue until the contract is eventually approved in May of 2008.

During these meetings, one of the concerns that were raised repeatedly by those in opposition- and we know this because of the detailed meeting minutes being recorded at that time- was the concern that research conducted at UH would one day be considered classified and hidden from those in the community. Today, more than a decade since the contract was originally approved we know that this fear has come true. There is extensive classified research being conducted at ARL, and in 2018 the security clearance level was quietly upgraded to top secret.

According to the indemnification documentation presented today, the contract is now being considered for a 10-year renewal for the very first time. This significant change in contract length, along with the fact that the research conducted at ARL has become more shrouded in secrecy in recent years begs for a newly transparent process. The last two contract renewals have

been signed by the UH president alone without time for public comment or opinion, and without needing to be placed on the agenda at a meeting like this one. Now, even more so than before, given these changes in circumstance surrounding the UARC contract it is imperative that the UH president and the Board of Regents take the time to exercise due process and create an opportunity for the public to provide comment and testimony on the contract renewal being proposed this year.

We are not just a “protest group” as several written testimonies for today have suggested. We are students, faculty, staff, graduates and community members that represent a rapidly growing collective of people who refuse to see a continued military connection on their public college campus. We are here to refuse any and all connection to the military in our homes, in our schools and in our work. And we are not leaving.

Thank you for your time,  
Mariko Quinn

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Your Organization (optional)

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

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

kalahui1893@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)



August 19, 2024

Subject: Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i stands in opposition to the Indemnification of the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command for the Proposed Contract with the UH Applied Research Laboratory Contract on Agenda Item VII C

Aloha,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i is a native initiative for self-determination and self-governance formed by and for the Kanaka Maoli people in 1987.

### **Indigenous Self-Determination and Native Land**

The University of Hawai‘i sits on stolen Kanaka Maoli National lands. Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i’s position has always been for the return of these lands to the Hawaiian nation and people and we are opposed to our lands being used for research to increase the US effectiveness in oppressing, exploiting and committing genocide against other indigenous peoples around the world, including our brothers and sisters in Palestine. These national lands were taken without Kanaka Maoli consent or compensation. For decades this public institution of education did not pay rent and whatever payments that are currently being made to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the use of these stolen lands do not come close to the fair market value. This University was built on the backs and bones of the indigenous peoples of this land and therefore has a responsibility to reconcile this wrong and a moral obligation as a “Aloha ‘Āina - Native Place of Learning” not to continue to contribute to the oppression and harm of the Kanaka Maoli people and of other indigenous peoples around the world. This University also has a responsibility as a publicly supported institution that has committed itself in its strategic plan to “Aloha ‘Āina” (Care for this Land), to uphold the protection of our land and our natural resources (including our precious wai) for future generations on these islands.

In 2021, the US Navy poisoned 93,000 O‘ahu residents when 19,000 gallons of fuel stored at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage facility spilled into O‘ahu’s drinking water. The US Navy’s first reaction was to lie about it and try to cover it up. In fact this disaster was totally avoidable but instead of listening to the expertise and warnings of the woman they hired, Shannon Bencs, to run the Red Hill facility, they silenced her and transferred her out of Red Hill. Now, because of their lack of transparency and negligence, hundreds (perhaps thousands) of men, women and children to this day are dealing with long term health issues. The US Navy has never taken full responsibility for this crime against humanity (no one was ever prosecuted) and instead is currently gaslighting the community into thinking that the Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) contamination moving west did not come from Red Hill.

After the harm the people of Hawai‘i including Kanaka Maoli have suffered at the hands of the US Military, this University is moving forward on Agenda item VII C indemnifying the US Navy for a contract no one has seen between the University of Hawai‘i and the Department of Defense.

The US military has not been good caretakers of our natural and cultural resources, lands, water, and

# KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

fragile ecosystems which are home to dozens of organisms found nowhere else in the world. In fact, the Department of Defense is the greatest threat to the future of our planet as the largest institutional greenhouse gas producer and one of the biggest polluters in the world. They are the single biggest cause and contributor to global warming and the degradation of our island home.

In 1893, the US military invaded Hawai‘i and overthrew our beloved Queen Liliuokalani and her peaceful Hawaiian nation under the false pretense of protecting American lives when nothing could be further from the truth. Under 131 years of illegal occupation, egregious harms have been done to the Kanaka Maoli people and the residents of Hawai‘i in the name of “National Security”. We have been poisoned, evicted, exploited, our resources destroyed and our non-human relatives decimated while we watch the islands of Oceania disappear under the sea. Now the US is engaged in a horrendous genocide against the indigenous peoples of Palestine which we are all watching in real time via the news and social media networks. The University of Hawai‘i’s unholy partnership with the Department of Defense research makes the faculty, staff, students, and taxpayers who support this University complicit in the systematic killing of men, women and children of Palestine and the destruction of their homeland.

The University of Hawai‘i was built on the backs of Hawai‘i’s indigenous peoples. Today we ask you to vote NO for Agenda Item VII C.

Sincerely,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

Spokesperson, Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i



## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Ricardo Valencia

Your Organization (optional)

MHPCC

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

ricardo.valencia.ctr@mhpcc.hpc.mil

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

MHPCC is part of the Hawaiian community where dreams come true if you study and work hard. Thanks to MHPCC my family has a roof over their heads. My children have to eat and do children's activities, go to school, swim, play soccer, dance, and practice musical theater, where they interact with other children and help local businesses grow, where my wife can continue studying nursing to help the community. Denying contracts to ARL UH is denying all of the above to my family who were born in Hawaii and have lived in

Hawaii. We take care of Hawaii and the USA from the enemies. but we need your help to continue doing our duties and responsibilities.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Joshua Walter

Your Organization (optional)

Waiea Water

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

joshua@waieawater.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Working with ARL has been tremendously helpful. They have connected us with some of the industry leaders in our field putting us side by side with some amazing technologies. They understand our technology and how it will help change the world. Thank you Joshua Baghdady!

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

George Yarbrough

Your Organization (optional)

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

georgeyarbrough@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.C. Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D-6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

My name is George and I am an entrepreneur in the the innovation ecosystem here in Hawaii.

I would like to submit my strong support for the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i (ARL at UH). Research shows that investment in local R&D is a key pillar to sustaining and growing a local startup and tech economy. ARL not only helps develop innovations that solve some of the world's most pressing problem, but also it provides an opportunity for local students to work in deeply technical fields.

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

Sincerely,

George

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Jack McKee

Your Organization (optional)

Academic Labor United

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

jmckee3@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**ALU-BoR-Testimony-template-for-Sept-19.pdf** (47.5 kB)

September 17, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Andrew Meyer, PhD Candidate, Department of Physics and Astronomy

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified

as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers "in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries" secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>



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## Testimony (09/19/2024)

1 message

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**Derek Rainey** <derekrai@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 2:55 PM

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
FROM: Derek Rainey (American Studies, PhD student)  
**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

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**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies. Even so, the minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to estimate without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and are awarded. With the very conservative assumption that all 1,534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the number comes out to \$4,145,292. This is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. This is not something that the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH is not prioritizing.

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai‘i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai‘i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

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Your Name (required) \*

Mary Bannister

Your Organization (optional)

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

marybann@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

**18 Sept 2024**

**TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents**

**FROM:**

**Mary Bannister**

**MA, Department of Anthropology**

**Teaching Assistant**

**Opposition to: Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)**

**Dear Members of the Board of Regents,**

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(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O‘ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain.

I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Yours sincerely,  
Mary Bannister  
MA, Department of Anthropology**

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

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Dianne Deauna

Your Organization (optional)

Academic Labor United

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

jdeauna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

### Your Testimony/Comments

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dianne Deauna, Graduate Teaching Assistant

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants – grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

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**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Liz Yen Tzu Liew

Your Organization (optional)

Academic Labour United

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

eyt.liew@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

18 Sept 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

**FROM:**

Elizabeth Yen Tzu Liew

MA, Department of Asian Studies (Masters in Asian International Affairs)

Teaching Assistant and Co-Organiser of UH Asian Studies Conference 2025

**Opposition to: Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)**

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate, Teaching, Research Assistant compensation.

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months). Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

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The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

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I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the

most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

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Yours sincerely,  
Elizabeth Yen Tzu Liew  
MA, Department of Asian Studies

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Tanzilla Purnota

Your Organization (optional)

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

purnota.tanzilla@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**Testimony.pdf** (39.0 kB)

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Tanzilla Purnota, MEd Curriculum Studies

Opposition to: Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation. I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

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Your Name (required) \*

Kaiqing Su

Your Organization (optional)

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

ksu4@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

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

No file attached



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Your Name (required) \*

Alan Tong

Your Organization (optional)

UH Manoa Mathematics Department

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

atalantong@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**ALU-BoR-Testimony-template-for-Sept-19-Alan-Tong.doc** (7.6 kB)

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Alan Tong, Mathematics Graduate Research Assistant

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

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Your Name (required) \*

Jacob White

Your Organization (optional)

ALU

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

jacobbw@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

### Your Testimony/Comments

September 18, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Jacob White, Chemistry Lab TA/GA, MBBE degree.

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

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The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants – grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

**Sources:**

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

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) \*

Marika Wilson

Your Organization (optional)

American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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

marikaew@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

### Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

**(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.**

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet. It is deeply unrealistic to ask us to take on the financial burden of housing and living expenses not covered by our pay on top of juggling our course work as students and jobs as GAs.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now by standing with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

Marika Wilson



Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required) \*

Areerat Worawongwasu

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

aree@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

### Your Testimony/Comments

Opposition to: Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.

I am writing as an Executive Committee member of Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in demanding for pay equity:

(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

(2) Raise the minimum GA compensation step to a level that matches or exceeds the compensation required for international students to secure a visa with their GA funding.

International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants – grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents against graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai'i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-

employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

Sources:

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

Me ke aloha,  
Areerat Worawongwasu.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached



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## Testimony for BOR-VII.A Consent Agenda

1 message

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**Stephanie Dossett** <steph23@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 6:50 AM

I have attached my testimony for submission.

--

Stephanie Dossett (she/her)  
MA student, Linguistics, UH Mānoa

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 **BoRTestimonyDossett.pdf**  
118K

September 19, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Stephanie Dossett, Linguistics Department MA Student and Graduate Assistant

**Opposition to:** Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

**I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.**

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

Currently, there are GAs signed to contracts dated July 2024 who are paid below the minimum pay of Step 13 which was guaranteed for contracts starting August 1, 2024. This is clearly an unfair implementation of the minimum pay step policy and their contracts should be adjusted to reflect the University mandated minimum pay after August 1, 2024.

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International students who were hired for Fall 2024 were hired at a minimum of Step 16 (\$25,908 for a 9-month and \$30,312 for 11-month contract). We demand minimum pay equity across the board for all GAs/RAs/TAs, and for UH Mānoa to be transparent about its internal process of calculating Cost of Attendance, which by federal law, determines requirements for how much international students need to be paid in their GA/RA/TA contract in order to be issued a U.S. visa by their respective embassies.

The current minimum pay of Step 13 (\$23,028) represents an income at less than half (41%) the living wage for a single adult with no children residing in Honolulu<sup>1</sup>. By income, O'ahu is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and most GAs / TAs/ RAs, whose labor this University is built on, are constantly struggling just to make ends meet.

The actual cost of increasing the graduate assistant minimum pay step to 16 is difficult to calculate with precision without information on the number of teaching assistants and research assistants, since research assistants are often funded from external grants -- grants which the research assistants themselves sometimes must apply for and be awarded. Despite GAs classified as public employees, the administration has insisted that GA worker pay is private information protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

Nevertheless, with a very conservative assumption that all 1534 GA's (as of January 17, 2024) are being paid out of UH system funds rather than grants, the price of increasing the minimum pay to Step 16 for all GAs comes out to \$4,145,292 annually. According to the latest Operating Budget, this amount is less than a third of the UH Foundation's FY 2024 donation surplus, less than a tenth of the UH system's FY 2025 projected budget surplus if one-time expenditures are removed, and less than 1% of the current aggregate fund balance. **Increasing minimum GA pay is not something that UH and the state of Hawai'i is unable to afford, this is something that UH simply refuses to prioritize.**

Despite interventions by the UH administration and the Board of Regents *against* graduate workers and their right to form a union, the state Supreme Court and the Hawai‘i Labor Relations Board have upheld our designation as public employees and our right to collectively bargain. I find it unfortunate that at this time, as increasing numbers of university workers—in addition to a diversity of workers in other industries—secure formal recognition for their unions and workers, and those unions secure improved contracts and working conditions for their members, alongside the historic support of perhaps the most pro-labor federal administration in the past century led by a president who was the first to join a union picket line, the University of Hawai‘i would choose to assert such a position.

The university should not need to be asked to recognize the unacceptable and indecent situation it is enforcing against workers without whom it could not operate. Neither should it be the responsibility of graduate student workers to provide solutions to a problem that years of inaction and mishandling between the university and the state legislature have conspired to create. The failure of this body to recognize these concerns, let alone take action toward solutions, is an indictment of those charged with leading this institution. I demand that you take responsibility now, that you choose to stand with university student-employees and not against them, and that you prioritize wage increases for the current fiscal year and into the future.

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Your Name (required) \*

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Your Organization (optional)

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

kamakanialbano@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

BOR - VII.A. Consent Agenda

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in **opposition** to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**



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Sources:

<https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>

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

**September 19, 2024 BOR Testimony.pdf** (98.8 kB)

September 19, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Donavan Kamakani Albano (graduate student & assistant at UH Mānoa)

Opposition to: Agenda Item VII.A. Consent Agenda (Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of a fiscal year operating budget that does not recognize the immediate need for increases to Graduate / Teaching / Research Assistant compensation.

I support Academic Labor United, the organizing committee of graduate workers at UH Mānoa, in their demands for pay equity:

**(1) Ensure that all GAs/RAs/TAs are paid a minimum pay step of Step 13 for Fall 2024, in accordance with University policy: Effective August 1, 2024, Step 13 (\$23,028 for 9 months and \$26,946 for 11 months).**

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protected by FERPA due to our student status - another blatant way by which they undermine our status as workers.

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Sources:

1. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/15003>



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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**BOR 2024.09.19 - Comments on IV B.**

1 message

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**Jason Alexander** <jasonma@hawaii.edu>  
To: BOR.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 9:24 PM

Aloha Board of Regents members,

As a UHM PhD candidate in solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its 11-month failure to address the continuously escalating genocide in Gaza and West Bank, which has intentionally wiped out all universities with US weaponry. UH's continued affiliations and investments in governmental, corporate, and academic entities that support Israel, as a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses under international law, directly contradict UH's stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships that directly threaten and harm its own students, faculty, and their communities. A recent example to follow is the MIT university-level divestment from the MISTI-Israel Lockheed Martin Fund. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto. Furthermore, the UH administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives on religious discrimination, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections alongside a rise in McCarthyism at the federal level. Particular care needs to be taken in messaging to recognize that US university administrators' punitive actions and deployments of police on campuses have comprised the vast majority of violence to campus communities in the past year, mirroring the brutal repression of protests to the Vietnam War. We need policy assurances that the UH administration will not escalate similarly.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

Thank you,

Jason M Alexander アレクサンダー・ジェイソン  
PhD Candidate; Dept. of Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
ハワイ大学マノア校大学院社会学部博士後期課程



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## Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate

1 message

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**Areerat Worawongwasu** <aree@hawaii.edu>  
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 3:33 AM

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Areerat (Aree) Worawongwasu | อารีรัตน์ วรวงศ์วสุ  
PhD Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
MA (En-Route to PhD), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
BA, New York University

[Academic Labor United](#) | Dignity. Affordability. For All.

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3K

## Comments on IV B. Comments on Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate;

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine (SFJP), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" (Above all nations is humanity). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations that do not apply to university officials, as has been experienced by the Associated Students of UH Mānoa. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration.

Me ke aloha,

Areerat Worawongwasu.



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Fwd: Item IV B and Item VI of BOR Agenda for 9/19

1 message

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**S. Shankar** <sshankarwriter@gmail.com>  
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 10:15 AM

Resending to right address.....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **S. Shankar** <sshankarwriter@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, Sep 17, 2024, 2:51 PM  
Subject: Item IV B and Item VI of BOR Agenda for 9/19  
To: <bor.testimony@hawaii.org>

I hope BOR and the Campus Climate committee will take cognizance of the anti-Palestinian sentiments expressed by people against faculty and students peacefully exploring Palestinian oppression at the hands of Israel and supporting basic human rights for Palestinians.

I hope BOR will also reject the request to indemnify under Item VI. Such a request is objectionable both on fiscal and moral grounds. Enough with supporting militarism and the war machine!

S. Shankar

UHM Faculty





BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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**Fwd: Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate**

1 message

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**Juvana Soliven** <juvana.soliven@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 1:17 PM

Juvana Soliven  
she/herphone: 808.780.3160  
website: [www.juvasoliven.com](http://www.juvasoliven.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Juvana Soliven** <juvana.soliven@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 11:16 AM  
Subject: Re: Israel/Gaza Situation and Campus Climate  
To: <[bor.testimony@hawaii.org](mailto:bor.testimony@hawaii.org)>

Dear Members of the Board of Regents

In solidarity with Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine at the University of Hawai'i (SFJP@UH), I raise concerns about the University of Hawai'i's relationship with Israel and its failure to address the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The University's continued affiliations and investments in entities that support a nation-state that is complicit in human rights abuses directly contradict its stated commitment to justice, and its motto, "Maluna a'e o nā lāhui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka" ("Above all nations is humanity"). It is imperative that the University divest from companies supporting Israel's military actions and terminate these partnerships. Failing to act aligns the University with Israel's atrocities against the people of Palestine, and undermines its ethical responsibilities, outlined in its motto.

Furthermore, the administration's handling of student protests and activism highlights a troubling imbalance of power. While the Campus Climate committee distracts with surface-level educational initiatives, the root issue of power—who holds it and how decisions are made—is ignored. Students' rights to protest are curtailed through arbitrary policies, such as selective space reservations, that do not apply to university officials, as we know with the UPASS town hall. This disparity in policy application reinforces the administration's overreach and suppression of legitimate dissent, violating constitutional free speech protections.

If the University truly stands for academic freedom, human rights, and justice, it must end its complicity in these atrocities, protect the constitutional rights of its students, and address the power imbalances within the administration. This is not an issue of politics but of humanity and moral accountability that Regents need to be responsible to uphold.

**Opposition to Agenda Item VII . Request Approval to Indemnify the Federal Government, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Proposed Contract, N00024-24-D6402 with the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL), University of Hawai'i.**

It is irresponsible for the UH Board of Regents to indemnify a contract that has yet to be reviewed by both the public and Regents themselves. ARL has failed to address concerns raised by students, faculty, and other community members regarding transparency, shared governance, and ethical and cultural integrity at Hawai'i's only public higher education institution. I request the Board of Regents (BOR) postpone approval of an indemnification until the NAVSEA contract is reviewed by the public and Regents.

Decisions of this magnitude need to be taken with the practice of shared governance. This effort denies our ability to make informed decisions about whether or not our public University should be committed to liability of a project we are not able to review. How can Regents commit our public institution to an indemnification of a contract that has yet to be reviewed?

What if the contents of this contract are not aligned to the values that we, students, faculty, and community agree with? These are public resources that are being leveraged to free liability for the very people who poisoned O'ahu's sole source aquifer, that are supporting genocide in Gaza, and have demonstrated historically immoral and even illegal actions under its own laws, and under international laws.

How does this contract shift their behavior and better Hawai'i and the world? How will it better protect the innocent lives, including women, and children in Gaza? What autonomy do Kānaka Maoli have over the research happening in their homelands? And what benefit do they receive that empowers their community, and all of Hawai'i?

A vote to indemnify is a vote against transparency, shared governance, UH's own strategy to fulfill kuleana to kānaka maoli, and future generations' opportunity for peace and not war.

For the sake of our children and the better practice of governance, vote to postpone this decision until the NAVSEA contract can be reviewed, receive community feedback, and take appropriate action. Do this to fulfill your responsibilities as Board members. And do this for the sake of our future generations. Do not forsake them.

Thank you,

Juvana Soliven  
she/her

phone: 808.780.3160

website: [www.juvasoliven.com](http://www.juvasoliven.com)