

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) *

Daphne Desser

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

desser@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

V. Report of the President: A. Update on Federal Executive Orders and Policy Changes

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

As a Jewish faculty member at UHM, I would like to ask Dr. Hensel how she intends to respond to executive order "Additional Measures to Combat Antisemitism."

In the UH system, we have witnessed, since October 8th and 9th, faculty members celebrating the brutal attack of October 7th on their social media and in person, in the form of public rallies, as a "moment of liberation." We have endured faculty members yelling at students, bullying students, and even pushing Jewish students for expressing sympathy for the hostages. We have faculty members who continue to post things like "Fuck Zionism. Fuck Zionists" on their social media, and we have had faculty members with no professional specialization in the politics or history of the Middle East relying on pre-packaged

“pedagogical” tools provided by outside groups to teach in their classes—classes that are not designated as courses meant to address such topics. We have seen, at UH Hilo, the distribution of pro-Hamas stickers at an event on campus.

These and similar events resulted in Jewish students filing a Title VI complaint in March 2024. It is now almost a year later. By now, other universities with Title VI complaints have released the reports of their antisemitism taskforces and have begun implementing their recommendations. From what any of us can tell, despite former President Lassner announcing, via press conference, the formation of a taskforce to address antisemitism, no such taskforce seems to exist.

No federal intervention should have been necessary for UH, or any college campus, to respond to the needs and concerns of students, faculty, and staff who are Jewish and have felt discriminated against. No ideological uniformity should be forced on any group. It has been the great disappointment and sadness of my personal and professional life, as a member of the progressive left, to see so many on the progressive left unwilling and unable to address the antisemitism that exists within our ranks. We would never deny that racism is a systemic evil we must all confront; why then are some of us so unable and so unwilling to address antisemitism? Anti-Zionism is not always necessarily equal to antisemitism, but sometimes it is tainted by antisemitism. And this university system has been unusually reluctant to even begin useful conversations on this matter.

On behalf of many members of the Jewish community who have been traumatized by the support for Hamas expressed by some groups on our campuses, I would like to ask, once again: 1) Where is the promised taskforce on antisemitism? When will it be formed? 2) What will the UH system do to address the active Title VI complaint? 3) Will we have a dedicated Title VI coordinator to address such complaints? 4) Will we see training on antisemitism on the UH campuses?

We have endured charges of “genocide” from groups who offer no recognition of the terroristic mass murder of women, children, and the elderly by Hamas; they offer no recognition of the extreme sexual assaults, including rape and mutilation, of young women by Hamas. There have been no commemorations of October 7th, no opportunity for the Jewish community at UH, who would like to publicly mourn, to do so. Each loss we mourn in private, with no institutional support, and, even worse, we do so in silence and in isolation—out of fear of reprisal from communities who not only diminish those losses but celebrate them.

Just as racism is systemic, so is antisemitism. It is an irrational hatred against the Jewish people that has existed for centuries and has included expulsions, mass murder, pogroms, and the Shoah. And yet, the Jewish people survive. We ask for assistance in combatting the persistence of this pernicious hatred, in every context that it appears. On the right, on the left, and among the non-political—discrimination can be found across all populations and political ideologies. That many of our colleagues, so eager to recognize and combat the effects of discrimination and oppression in many other cases, have turned, continuously, a blind eye to antisemitism, has been the most devastating and shocking experience of my professional life at UH.

My father, of blessed memory, escaped the Shoah as a child, his family leaving one country after another in search of safety—each time leaving a home, a language, family members, and friends, and most of what they owned behind—just to be able to survive. My mother’s family left Russia due to the pogroms while the vast majority, those in Poland, were later killed by the Nazis. Before the birth of my children in the US, no generation in my family had been safe enough, as Jewish people, to give birth to their children in the same country as they were born. Each generation, even as citizens of the countries where they born, were chased out of those countries—simply because they were Jewish.

Due to a technical glitch, these comments were not received until after the meeting but have been shared with all Regents.

The repercussions of antisemitism, wherever it is found, are dangerous and real. It is a great sadness that the UH system continues to drag its feet in addressing one of the most longstanding hatreds that exists, in some fashion, across time, culture, religion, region, and political commitments.

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Chelbi Sirach Espiritu

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Association

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

uhhsaprz@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: B. Approval of a New University of Hawai’i at Hilo (UHH) Student Athletic Fee

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UHHSA Testimony-Student Fees.pdf (597.8 kB)



Date 02/12/2025

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Relating to Student Life Center Fee and Athletics Fee Agenda Items

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chairs Tochiki and Loo, and Members of the Board:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association (UHHSA) firmly opposes the proposed increases to both the Student Life Center Fee and the implementation of the Athletics Fee. These fees impose an unjustified financial burden on students without sufficient transparency, accountability, or clear benefits for the broader student body.

Last year, UHHSA conducted a survey to gather student opinions regarding these proposed fee increases. Out of 212 respondents, **118 opposed the Student Life Center Fee increase**, and **116 opposed the Athletics Fee increase**.

1. As one student suggested, "While I recognize the need for a fee increase to maintain the Student Life Center, I suggest considering a more gradual approach. A sudden \$75 increase may be burdensome, especially considering the overall cost of living for all students. Implementing smaller, incremental fee increases per year or semester would be more manageable for students, allowing them to plan ahead."
2. Another student stated, "Not everyone is an athlete, and not everyone watches these games." Others echoed this view, with one remarking, "How will this benefit me?"
3. Additionally, some students shared negative experiences with athletes themselves, noting, "Coming from experience, a lot of the student athletes don't represent the student body well. They are disrespectful and cause a lot of conflict among the rest of the students."

With more than half of the respondents in opposition, it's the duty of UHHSA as representatives of the student body to voice our opposition to this increase.

Students have expressed significant concern regarding the steep increase to the Student Life Center fee, particularly as it coincides with planned 2% tuition increases over the next three years, creating additional financial strain. Many students have voiced the need for more flexibility, including the option to opt out of the fee if they do not use the facility. Others have suggested a phased approach, gradually increasing the fee over multiple semesters rather than implementing a steep increase all at once. However, these suggestions have not been seriously



considered or incorporated into the proposal, leaving students feeling unheard in a decision that directly impacts their financial well-being. This further underscores the need for greater transparency and meaningful student engagement in financial decisions.

Regarding the Athletics Fee, many students are concerned about being required to pay a mandatory fee that primarily benefits student athletes. While only a small portion (5-8%) is allocated toward initiatives meant to enhance the overall student experience and school spirit, the majority of the fee will fund athletic travel expenses. Additionally, students have raised concerns about the ongoing poor behavior of some student athletes, stating that their conduct does not align with the University's values. There is also a strong perception of unfair privilege, as student athletes receive priority registration, preferred housing, and exclusive access to training facilities—benefits that create a divide between athletes and non-athletes. Requiring non-athletes to financially support a system that overwhelmingly benefits one group while failing to address the broader needs of the student body only deepens this sense of inequity.

The lack of transparency surrounding the proposed fee increases for the Student Life Center and the implementation of a new Athletics fee is deeply concerning. Over the past two years, student government has been approached by campus administrators and directors regarding these changes, yet the consultation process has been inadequate and opaque. Presenters were consistently unprepared, unable to provide specific budgetary details, and, even when asked, failed to follow up with critical financial information. Despite claims that these proposals were widely shared with students, our conversations with peers indicate that most were unaware of these changes. Additionally, the decision-making process appears to be based on a survey of just over 100 students for the Student Life Center fee, a small and unrepresentative sample of our campus of over 2,500. While, the students in support of the Athletics fee are majority students athletes, who benefit the most from this fee. The failure to engage students meaningfully and provide full financial transparency undermines trust in these proposals and raises serious concerns about accountability.

Moving forward, we demand a commitment to true transparency, conversation, and accountability from our campus administration. If these fee increases are implemented, students deserve full access to detailed budgets, clear justifications for costs, and regular financial reporting on how our fees are being allocated. No proposal of this magnitude should move forward without thorough and well-publicized student engagement, including meaningful consultation and open access to financial data. We call on our administration to not only improve transparency in future proposals but to ensure that students have a direct and informed role in decisions that impact our financial obligations. Our student body deserves clarity and honesty,



and we will continue to hold our campus accountable for delivering on this fundamental principle.

Sincerely,

2024-25 UHHSA Senate

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Your Name (required) *

Chelbi Sirach Espiritu

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Association

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

uhhsaprz@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: C. Approval of an Increase in the Student Life Center Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UHHSA Testimony-Student Fees.pdf (597.8 kB)



Date 02/12/2025

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS

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Sincerely,

2024-25 UHHSA Senate

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Your Name (required) *

Ronald Sturges

Your Organization (optional)

Student Caucus

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

sturgesr@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: C. Approval of an Increase in the Student Life Center Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Testimony is in regards to all UHH Fee related items.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

BOR UHH Student Fees Testimony UHSC.pdf (820.5 kB)



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I STUDENT CAUCUS

Date 02/20/2025

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Relating to All Student Fee Agenda Items

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chairs Tochiki and Loo, and Members of the Board:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

As the student governance group of the University of Hawai'i, the UH Student Caucus (UHSC) is formally authorized to serve as a system-wide association of all University of Hawai'i campus student governments, representing approximately 50,000 students across the 10 campuses of the UH System.

The UH Student Caucus offers comments for serious consideration relating to all three UH Hilo student fee proposals.

The points on the next page were shared at the Student Success Committee meeting earlier this month. We are submitting additional information in this testimony to urge the UH Board of Regents to re-evaluate your position in support of students within our University of Hawai'i 'ohana. Our testimony, in combination with the testimony of UH Hilo's student government, shares resounding concern about the operations associated with the fee proposal process.

It appears that UH Hilo followed the process, so the Student Success Committee was okay with passing the fee proposals. However, if you read more closely into the feedback from students, it is clear that students are not in support of these proposals. If that is the case, then what is the purpose of requiring consultation? Students are busy, so when they give of their time to attend forums and provide feedback, the institution should value that feedback and use it to improve their proposals. As it stands, the students' voices do not appear to be valued, leading us to question whether the consultation process is merely for the purpose of going through the process. To this end, we encourage the Board of Regents not to simply rubber stamp these proposals. Please hear the voices of our peers.

We, the UH Student Caucus, represent the collective voices of the University of Hawai'i students. We request dignity and respect in that when we are asked to attend an informational session and provide feedback, that feedback will be heard and used to improve processes. Instead, we are made to feel more like doormats - in place to give the appearance of a warm welcome to the public, but behind the scenes our voices are worth nothing as our feedback is stepped over or on with no sincere desire to hear us and work with us. We would hope that the administration would be more considerate in regards to the voices of the very students who give these institutions their purpose.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII STUDENT CAUCUS

Students should not be held responsible for delayed actions of the administration or missteps of the institution. Administration should be held accountable for years of inattention to details. That lack of accountability being passed on to students in the form of fees is not acceptable and we ask the Board of Regents to see this through the eyes of us students, who these fees impact most directly.

Student feedback indicates a majority opposition to the proposed increases. While the sample size is not ideal for a comprehensive attitude assessment of the UH Hilo campus, what has been provided indicates a large degree of hesitation in regards to the fee increases. Some students also indicate that there is a lack of understanding as to why the fees must be increased and to such a large degree.

Student feedback indicates that a significant percentage of students are concerned by the magnitude of the fee increase. With the size of the fee increases surpassing 100% many indicated alarm. If the fee increase to such a degree is necessary and cannot be reduced to a more acceptable number then it is suggested that such an increase take place over a longer period of time, to be determined by further student feedback.

Student feedback indicates that the proposed fee increase, while addressing those with financial insecurities in its implementation, still fear for their financial stability. While the proposed increase also includes stipulations to address those on financial assistance programs many students still feel that their financial security is at risk.

Sincerely,

Ronald Sturges,
Chairperson, UH Student Caucus

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Your Name (required) *

Elena Hill

Your Organization (optional)

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

hillelena24@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: B. Approval of a New University of Hawai’i at Hilo (UHH) Student Athletic Fee

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

I write once more to ask you not to approve the Student Athletic Fee proposal and I ask you to look into the following details.

The proposal says two student public forums were held. Who from the Athletics department presented the information at the forums? I was told that AD Guillen and Assoc. AD Oda were not at the forums. The students asked questions but didn't receive answers because the Athletics staff were not available. Why is that information not included in the proposal?

There is only one paragraph that shares the feedback from these forums. Does the University care about the feedback from the students or were they going through the motions with no intention of listening to what the students had to say?

Most bizarre about the information that is not included or withheld is the breakdown of feedback from student athletes and those that are not student athletes. Any good researchers would know that if you asked the student athletes in this situation for their feedback, it would be significantly different than feedback from students who are not athletes. Why did President Hensel and Chancellor Irwin allow these forums to take place like this? They both have academic degrees and should have known the approach used was flawed.

Who is holding AD Guillen and Assoc. AD Oda accountable and who is holding President Hensel and Chancellor Irwin accountable? Who is advocating for our students?

Sincerely,
Elena Hill

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Elena Hill

Your Organization (optional)

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

hillelena24@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: C. Approval of an Increase in the Student Life Center Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

You are all successful in your careers and your service to UH as a regent is honorable. For a short moment, I ask you to think back many years to when you were not yet successful in your career, when you were still working through the struggles of life that weren't as difficult as they were today.

If you were 18 years old again and experiencing severe hunger or homelessness, \$100 would be a lot of money to you. Was hunger and homelessness even a concern when you were pursuing your college degrees? It's difficult to imagine what students are going through if you didn't experience some of it before. The same could be said for President Hensel and Chancellor Irwin. Do they help feed the

Due to a technical glitch, these comments were not received until after the meeting but have been shared with all Regents.

homeless in Hilo? Are they trying to make free meals available to starving UH Hilo students. Before the Board approves adding another \$100 to what students need to pay, I suggest helping the students solve some of the real life challenges they are experiencing. That \$100 could be used to pay for food or for their rent instead. When students are hungry or homeless, getting to class is hard. They don't have time or energy to go to the student life center. Why charge all of the students for something that most of the students don't even use?

Sincerely,
Elena Hill

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

No file attached

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Your Name (required) *

Elena Hill

Your Organization (optional)

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

hillelena24@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

VII. Consent Agenda: D. Approval of a Request to Implement a New Student Engagement Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) *

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

Staff and students are not in support of this fee but they fear speaking out in retaliation because the environment is very hostile at UH Hilo right now. Staff share their frustration with their friends and family. We all care about UH Hilo and that is why I'm writing today. Two of my friends are considering retiring three years earlier than planned because they are overwhelmed by what is going on. When they raise concerns they are dismissed and told that everything is harder now after the pandemic or the election. The issues at UH Hilo are not new. They have lost highly qualified faculty, staff and administrators in recent years for campus leadership and morale issues. How long will President Hensel allow the hostile

work environment at UH Hilo to continue?

The chancellor doesn't only condone the hostile work environment. By not addressing it, she continues to contribute to it. When she goes before the public and misrepresents the campus that further paints the campus in a bad light. That's what happened earlier this month when the chancellor shared inaccurate information with the committee. Why isn't the leader of the institution prepared to answer the questions from the regents? It could be because she is rarely on campus and the work is put on union employees to do the work that the chancellor or vice chancellors should be doing. Having interim vice chancellors means they are still learning what they need to do so the hard work gets assigned to the union employees. If the chancellor doesn't know the answer when the Board asks a question, it would be honorable of her to ask one of the union employees to provide the accurate answer. The union employees at UH Hilo are committed to the success of UH Hilo beyond their generation. Their lifetime commitment to UH Hilo is honorable and all of those employees who have been there before this chancellor and will still be at UH Hilo after this chancellor should be recognized for their hard work. They are what keeps UH Hilo going.

If you walk around the campus and ask staff and students for their feedback about this fee, they will tell you what the feedback in the proposal says. They do not support it. Please do what is honorable and vote according to the voices of those who will be most impacted by this fee. The students are counting on your support.

Sincerely,
Elena Hill

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

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Your Name (required) *

Dianne Deauna

Your Organization (optional)

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

jdeauna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IX.B. Legislative Update

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Written testimony for Feb 20 2025 Board of Regents meeting.pdf (120.7 kB)

February 20, 2025

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dianne Deauna, UH Mānoa Graduate Assistant

Comments only: Agenda Item IX.B. Legislative Update

(specifically in regard to HB 300 - Relating to the State Budget and
SB 473 Relating to the State Budget)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I submit this testimony to provide comments on the fiscal year operating budget, demanding that UH allocate funding to: (1) ensure GA pay equity across the UH System and (2) provide backpay for GAs who were not paid the Cost of Attendance for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

Re: Item 1, ensuring GA pay equity across the UH System

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo offers the Masters in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, the only one of its kind in the United States. The highly unique program attracts a diverse set of students, some of whom are employed through Graduate Assistantships. Similar to their counterparts at UH Mānoa, these GAs teach undergraduate students, [perform outstanding research work that serves the communities of Big Island](#), and conduct administrative duties that ensures the smooth day to day operations of TCBES. We ask that the Board of Regents act to ensure that they receive just compensation for their work.

In the Spring of 2022, a minimum wage step increase was promised to GAs in the UH system at both campuses, but ultimately UH Hilo was forced to sacrifice a GA position to match the salary increase. Again in 2023, UH Mānoa received raises, and when GAs approached the administration inquiring about raises for GAs at UH Hilo, they were told that they would need to sacrifice another GA position to compensate if UH Hilo GA salaries were to increase to match. This Spring, it was announced that the minimum GA Pay Step will be increased: [Effective August 1, 2025, STEP 15 \(\\$24,912\) for 9-month and STEP 14 \(\\$28,026\) for 11-month](#). **We demand that the Board of Regents allocate State funding to ensure that UH Hilo GAs will receive pay step increases by August 1, 2025 without sacrificing existing GA positions.**

Re: Item 2, providing backpay for GAs who were not paid the Cost of Attendance for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

In Fall 2024, the [Cost of Attendance](#) for graduate students at UH Mānoa increased to \$25,214 per year. By Fall 2024, based on historical trends, around a third of GAs (~500 out of 1,500) were making the minimum designated pay step of Step 13 9-mo - equivalent to \$23,028 per year. This is also assuming that all GAs have been making at least the minimum pay step - without updated salary data from UH, which they have refused to share despite GAs being designated as public employees, we are unable to know for certain. This means that from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025, around a third of GAs were not being paid enough to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We demand that the Board of Regents allocate State funding to provide back pay to all GAs who were not paid at a wage that meets the Cost of Attendance. Since the Cost of Attendance is \$25,214 per year, the minimum for a 9-mo contract should in fact, be at Step 16 9-mo or \$25,908 per year, not at Step 15 9-mo as newly prescribed. We hope to hear a transition plan by which the minimum pay step will be increased to match the Cost of Attendance, [similar to the plan introduced by UH in 2022](#).

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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) *

IX.B. Legislative Update

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

BoR Leg budget testimony_Kaiqing Su.pdf (115.1 kB)

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Kaiqing Su. I am a Ph.D. student in the Political Science Department at UH Mānoa and a Graduate Assistant teaching in the same department. I submit this testimony to provide comments on the fiscal year operating budget, demanding that UH allocate funding to: (1) ensure GA pay equity across the UH System and (2) provide backpay for GAs who were not paid the Cost of Attendance for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

Re: Item 1, ensuring GA pay equity across the UH System

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo offers the Masters in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, the only one of its kind in the United States. The highly unique program attracts a diverse set of students, some of whom are employed through Graduate Assistantships. Similar to their counterparts at UH Mānoa, these GAs teach undergraduate students, [perform outstanding research work that serves the communities of Big Island](#), and conduct administrative duties that ensures the smooth day to day operations of TCBES. We ask that the Board of Regents act to ensure that they receive just compensation for their work.

In the Spring of 2022, a minimum wage step increase was promised to GAs in the UH system at both campuses, but ultimately UH Hilo was forced to sacrifice a GA position to match the salary increase. Again in 2023, UH Mānoa received raises, and when GAs approached the administration inquiring about raises for GAs at UH Hilo, they were told that they would need to sacrifice another GA position to compensate if UH Hilo GA salaries were to increase to match. This Spring, it was announced that the minimum GA Pay Step will be increased: [Effective August 1, 2025, STEP 15 \(\\$24,912\) for 9-month and STEP 14 \(\\$28,026\) for 11-month](#). **We demand that the Board of Regents allocate State funding to ensure that UH Hilo GAs will receive pay step increases by August 1, 2025 without sacrificing existing GA positions.**

Re: Item 2, providing backpay for GAs who were not paid the Cost of Attendance for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

In Fall 2024, the [Cost of Attendance](#) for graduate students at UH Mānoa increased to \$25,214 per year. By Fall 2024, based on historical trends, around a third of GAs (~500 out of 1,500) were making the minimum designated pay step of Step 13 9-mo - equivalent to \$23,028 per year. This is also assuming that all GAs have been making at least the minimum pay step - without updated salary data from UH, which they have refused to share despite GAs being designated as public employees, we are unable to know for certain. This means that from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025, around a third of GAs were not being paid enough to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. **We demand that the Board of Regents allocate State funding to provide back pay to all GAs who were not paid at a wage that meets the Cost of Attendance.** Since the Cost of Attendance is \$25,214 per year, the minimum for a 9-mo contract should in fact, be at Step 16

9-mo or \$25,908 per year, not at Step 15 9-mo as newly prescribed. We hope to hear a transition plan by which the minimum pay step will be increased to match the Cost of Attendance, [similar to the plan introduced by UH in 2022](#).

As a GA who is currently paid Step 16, I can hardly make my ends meet in Hawai'i. This is the bare minimum GAs need to survive. And it saddens me that my peers and colleagues at UH Hilo and UH Mānoa are told that their labor is not worthy. Both of these measures are long overdue. Please right the wrongs before it is too late. Mahalo nui.

Yours Sincerely,

Kaiqing Su

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) *

Areerat Worawongwasu

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and Academic Labor United

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

aree@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

IX.B. Legislative Update

Your Position (required) *

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

February 20, 2025
TO: University of Hawai’i Board of Regents
FROM: Areerat Worawongwasu, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa PhD student and Gender Justice Chair of Academic Labor United

Comments only: Agenda Item IX.B. Legislative Update
(specifically in regard to HB 300 - Relating to the State Budget and SB 473 Relating to the State Budget)

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Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached