Ocean Day partners with UHHSAs’s Malama Kanaloa Festival

The 4th annual Ocean Day Hawai‘i Malama Kanaloa Festival is Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UH Hilo’s Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center in Keaukaha. The free public event is hosted by PACRC in partnership with the UH Hilo Student Association, Hawai‘i Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Project, University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant, and the Hilo Jaycees.

“Ocean Day is focused on increasing awareness of ocean issues such as conservation, ocean resources and ocean safety through fun interactive displays, activities and booths,” noted Sharon Ziegler-Chong, PACRC associate director. “The mission is to raise public awareness of the impact people have on the ocean environment, promote conservation of our precious ocean and coastal resources in a culturally sensitive way, and communicate the outcomes of current ocean and coastal research, management and education efforts here in Hawai‘i.

“Information booths feature UH Hilo Marine Science researchers as well as the Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources, Marine Mammal Response Network, Hawai‘i Island Hawksbill Monitoring Project, and NOAA’s Mokupapapa Discovery Center. It’s also a great opportunity to tour PACRC, view ongoing research projects and meet people who are involved with ocean resources.”

Family-friendly activities include remote-operated underwater vehicles, fishing games, touch tanks, face painting, poi pounding, plus live music and food booths.

“The event should be even bigger and better this year, with a larger diversity of booths as well as added University community involvement through PACRC’s new partnership with UHHSAs’s Malama Kanaloa Festival,” Ziegler-Chong added.

For more information, contact Ho‘oululahui Perry at hperry@hawaii.edu or Michele Kubojiri at mkubo@hawaii.edu or call x33289.

UH Hilo legislative priorities remain in play

by Ken Hupp

Key University of Hawai‘i at Hilo initiatives have advanced at the 2011 Legislature as the session enters its final month. The preliminary goal of securing a place in the House or Senate version of the budget has been met with the spending plan approved by House lawmakers. But the most critical make or break moment has yet to come.

Front and center for UH Hilo is a pair of proposals in the University of Hawai‘i System’s Capital Improvement Program for the 2011-2013 Biennium. One seeks $32 million in Revenue and General Obligation Bonds for Phase One of the first student housing development to be built on campus since 1989. The money would finance planning, design, construction, finishing and equipment for an estimated 250 beds in apartment- and suite-style residence halls.

A companion proposal seeks $4 million to design, renovate, upgrade and equip the existing Hale Ka‘nilehua Residence Hall to create a living, learning community. The project would include a classroom, separate living accommodations for a scholar-in-residence, a fully functioning community kitchen, and could eventually add up to 30 additional beds.

Chancellor Donald Straney has described the shortage of on-campus housing as the single biggest factor limiting UH Hilo’s growth and development and said the impact could become detrimental unless more housing is created. Student demand for housing currently exceeds the University’s capacity by at least 1,200 beds and results in approximately 350
students admitted each fall choosing not to enroll when they discover they cannot obtain student housing.

The housing and living, learning community proposals are both included in the House spending plan. Other items remaining in play include funding requests to scale-up pilot programs in gateway courses like math and science and to establish degree programs in West Hawai‘i.

The House budget also produced a welcome surprise as lawmakers approved $700,000 to plan and design a nursing, culinary and workforce program development building at the University’s North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center in Honoka‘a.

“Getting any request funded is a challenge given the current state of the economy, so it’s heartening to see that a number of our most important initiatives are still in the running,” said University Relations Director Gerald De Mello.

“Our entire delegation, led by East Hawai‘i representatives Jerry Chang, Faye Hanohano, Mark Nakashima and Clifton Tsuji deserve all the credit for getting these proposals to this point.”

One proposal not making the cut was the University’s largest capital improvement request. $60 million was being sought to build and equip a complex to house the College of Pharmacy, whose operations are presently spread out over six different sites around Hilo. In acknowledgement of the state’s fiscal climate, the request was penciled in for next year on the System’s capital wish list of $66 million.

On balance, De Mello is pleased with the work of the Big Island delegation and where everything stands at the moment. But he knows from experience to expect a flurry of activity during the session’s final hours, when virtually anything can happen.

“Football is a 60-minute game and the legislature is a 60-day session, so nothing is ever certain until the final vote is taken,” De Mello said. “But our Big Island delegation has been able to position a number of important proposals to be considered when House and Senate conferees meet to resolve their differences, and you can’t ask for more than that.”

( Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

MA in Counseling Psychology receives national accreditation

The UH Hilo Master of Arts Program in Counseling Psychology has received a full 10-year accreditation from the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council (MPAC), extending to March 1, 2021. MPAC accredits academic programs in psychology, which promote training in the scientific practice of professional psychology at the master’s level. Accredited programs must demonstrate a commitment to science-based training in all aspects of psychology and to enhancing services to the consumer and the public-at-large.

“My colleagues and I are very pleased to have attained national accreditation for our counseling psychology program,” said Dr. Bryan Kim, director of the counseling psychology masters program. “We all know that national accreditation represents external recognition of a program’s high-level quality and sustainability. My colleagues and I have worked hard at building our program and we are grateful to have this recognition from the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council.”

The Master of Arts Program in Counseling Psychology is administered by the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences. The program was established in 2005 with the full approval and support of the University of Hawai‘i System and the Hawai‘i State Legislature. The 60 semester-hour program is based on a scientist-practitioner model, with an emphasis on empirical research and evidence-based practices. The program is designed to provide multicultural, student-centered training in counseling psychology and meets the curricular requirements for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor in the State of Hawai‘i.

“I personally want to thank my faculty colleagues, administrators, students, graduates, community supervisors, and everyone else who have supported our program since its formation in 2005 and have helped to make this accreditation possible,” Kim said.

For more information about the program, contact Kim at bryankim@hawaii.edu or x47439.
Strategic planning update: further consultation

by Siân Millard on behalf of the UH Hilo Strategic Planning Committee

In the week commencing April 11th, the Strategic Planning Committee will hold a further consultation on elements of the draft strategic plan. This will include the revised mission and vision statements, draft goals and possibly some potential actions. As with our previous consultation on the draft mission and vision, we will be seeking feedback from the UH Hilo community to help us further improve and clarify the strategic plan. We will issue further details about the consultation as the date nears.

Along with redeveloping the draft mission and vision statements, the SPC’s focus at this time is on developing draft strategic goals and supporting actions. This is a complex process requiring consideration of multiple sources of information. We are attempting to ‘make sense’ of this information, whilst ensuring that what we discuss and identify is grounded in the evidence we have available to us. A strategic plan is a long-term planning tool and therefore won’t list everything the University does; rather, we are attempting to articulate goals and actions that will act as a shared guide for us over the coming years.

If you are interested in reading more, you can access the notes of our initial discussions on potential goals and actions at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/strategicplanningcommittee.php#Mtgs2011. Applicable minutes are from the February 18, 2011 meeting.

UH Hilo Relay for Life rescheduled for April 8

UH Hilo takes on the atmosphere of a large, all-night slumber party this month when it hosts the 5th annual Relay for Life (RFL) from 6 pm April 8 to 6 am April 9 on the Campus Center Plaza. The event, organized by student co-chairs Jacky Mena, Amanda-Sue Mahuka and their planning committee, was originally scheduled for March, but postponed due to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

This year’s theme will be “More Birthdays, More Holidays, More Every Days.” As in years’ past, the University ‘ohana and community-at-large will participate in a wide range of activities to raise awareness of the need for cancer care while generating funds for cancer services and research. Organizers hope to form 30 teams of individuals to raise money with a net fundraising goal of $30,000.

The event’s opening ceremony will feature a march led by UH Hilo Cancer Survivors. A night full of entertainment will follow with performances by Punk 45, Out of Nowhere, UH Hilo Samoan Club, and Kree. Various teams will also engage in their own fun and on-site fundraisers including food and games. Highlighting the night’s activities will be the “Luminaria Ceremony” at 10 pm, where the entire crowd joins together in a meaningful tribute to every cancer “warrior.”

Morning activities kick off at 12 am with the “Fight Back Ceremony,” followed by a Zumba session to energize participants. Other activities include a Hula Hoop Contest/Jump Rope Lap, American UH Hilo “Idol” Contest, Bubblegum Contest/Bubbles Lap, Glow sticks/Group Dancing-Macarena, a “Miss” Ter Relay Pageant, and a UH Hilo ROTC – PT Session.
Hats off to...

John Cusick, Associate Professor, Biology, presented his research, “Phospholipid Scramblase overexpression sensitizes salivary gland cells to genotoxic stress induced apoptosis” at the Salivary Glands and Exocrine Biology Gordon Research Conference in Galveston, TX. One of the major topics was strategies to prevent the permanent loss of saliva production in patients receiving irradiation treatment for head and neck cancers.

Faith Mishina, Assistant Professor, Spanish, attended the Hawai‘i International Conference of the Humanities and presented her paper, “Garcia Marquez’s Inverted Model of Bolivar in The Autumn of the Patriarch: A Reflection on the Irreparable World of Latin America due to Colonial and Imperialistic Aftermath.” Her paper was published in the Hawai‘i International Conference of 2011 proceedings for January 2011.


Jackie Pualani Johnson, Professor, Drama, was honored last month with the St. Joseph School Outstanding Leadership Award for distinguished leadership in the performing arts and humanities at the Second Annual Cardinal Ball held at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center. Johnson was one of four outstanding leaders who are SJS alumni recognized for also being an exemplary role model.

Bryan Kim, Professor, Psychology, wrote “Client Motivation and Multicultural Counseling,” published in The Counseling Psychologist.

Mok Chong, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, presented a poster session, “Impact of ‘Ohana Diabetes Education Program on Clinical Outcomes in a Marshallese Patient in Hawai‘i: A Six-Month Evaluation,” at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition held last month in Seattle, WA. The abstract will be published in the upcoming Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. He has also been appointed Editorial Member for the International Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences’ next newsletter.

Anthony Wright, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, shared the results of his three-month pilot project, “Investigation of Hawaiian Green Tea,” at an event sponsored last month by the UH Hilo Women’s Center and Center for Global Education and Exchange. The study was conducted last summer at Mauna Kea Tea and examined the production of three compounds in the bud and first two leaves of tea plants. Wright and colleagues sought a better understanding on the correlation between shade and tea plants.

A Voyage to Health on display

The History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine has provided the Edwin H. Mookini Library with a traveling exhibition, A Voyage to Health, currently on display in the Edwin H. Mookini lobby. A Voyage to Health explores the recent revival of the ancient arts of navigation and voyaging that first brought the people of Hawai‘i to their island homes.

The Edwin H. Mookini Library is a part of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, providing consumer health information to local residents.
April 21 is CAFNRM Fair Day!

Pork may be off the legislative diet, but it’s definitely on the menu, along with honey, lemonade and mead, at the CAFNRM Fair Day, scheduled for Thursday, April 21, noon to 2 p.m. on the CAFNRM breezeway.

Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi, professor of entomology, founded the annual event in 2007 and serves as the fair’s organizer. She is also overseeing the fair’s “A Taste of Honey” exhibit, which demonstrates products made with honey and beeswax from the hives at UH Hilo’s Panaewa Ag Farm.

“Each of the students in my ENTO 350 advanced beekeeping course will be involved at one of the demonstrations,” Tsutsumi said. “It’s a part of their course grade to share their beekeeping experiences with the public. They’ll share their beekeeping knowledge and skills by demonstrating honey extraction, wax processing, and honey candy making.”

Food samples include pulled pork sandwiches with honey mustard sauce, honey lemonade, and salad with honey dressing. Richard Short, the Farm’s manager, will also demonstrate how mead, a honey wine, is made.

While many beekeeping operations in Hawai‘i have been devastated by the parasitic varroa mite and colony collapse disorder, or CCD, Tsutsumi says the health of the UH Hilo beehives is good “due to the constant patrol by my students.”

An imu will be dug to roast the pig at the Panaewa Farm, Tsutsumi said.

“A portion of the pig will be kept intact and the stripping and final preparation of the kalua for sampling will be demonstrated at the fair,” she added.

Other displays include aquaculture and horticulture, including composting and vermicomposting.

“This is an opportunity for the students to showcase what they’ve learned and I’m excited about it,” Tsutsumi said. ☺

UH Hilo takes leadership role in international language consortium

Ka Haka ʻUla O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language recently accepted an invitation to take a leadership role in language revitalization for the Consortium for Training in Language Documentation and Conservation. Kaleimamo Galla, an assistant professor at KHʻUOK, will serve on the international organization’s steering committee.

CTLDC held its 2nd International Conference of Language Documentation and Conservation February 11-13 at UH Manoa. The conference was followed by a field study hosted by KHʻUOK February 14 and 15 at UH Hilo.


The field study and He ʻŌlelo Ola conference, “A living Hawaiian language: To know the world through the Hawaiian language,” attracted approximately 70 participants from across the United States, Canada, Aotearoa, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ghana, Rapa Nui, Russia, Scotland and the United Kingdom. The field study and conference allowed KHʻUOK to share expertise and knowledge with those who are striving to revitalize their indigenous languages.

Participants sampled classes taught in Hawaiian language from the infant/toddler level through the university level, followed by panel presentations at the ʻImiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i. The majority of the panel presentations were in Hawaiian with simultaneous English translation.

Some of the topics were: Hawaiian language in media; the role of the university in Hawaiian language and culture revitalization; archived written and oral documentation and intergenerational language transfer.

For additional information, contact Kimura at x47564. ☺
Beginning Fall 2011, UH Hilo will offer a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pharmacy Studies. The UH Board of Regents approved at its February meeting the new degrees as provisional programs to be administered by the College of Pharmacy.

The degree in pharmaceutical science is the second Ph.D. offering at UH Hilo. The UH Hilo College of Pharmacy currently provides training and experience leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. The bachelor’s degree, abbreviated as BAPS, is an undergraduate degree designed for students who are enrolled in the PharmD curriculum at the College of Pharmacy.

“Each of these programs expands our ability to offer students more options in a changing world landscape,” said Dean John M. Pezzuto. “The BAPS degree will enhance educational opportunities for our Pharm.D. students and make them more competitive in the marketplace. The Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences complements the PharmD program by exposing students to career prospects beyond the practice of pharmacy. We’ve been building these degree options since the founding of the College.”

Kenith Simmons, UH Hilo Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said “We are encouraged by this vote of confidence from the Board. The curriculum and research proposal that come over my desk from the College of Pharmacy have impressed me in their capacity to influence the state of health care not only in Hawaii but in the world.”

The Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science will prepare graduates to be scientists with extensive skills in research, design, techniques and methodologies.

“Not only will residents of Hawaii be able to earn a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science without leaving the state, we will be able to attract scholars from the mainland and abroad with unparalleled opportunities,” Pezzuto explained. “The economic and intellectual benefits to the state reach far beyond our imagination at this point.”

Students with a PharmD, master’s or bachelor’s degree and those currently working in the field will be eligible to apply to the new Ph.D. program. Studies will culminate with the award of a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science, with an emphasis on natural products discovery and development.

“Hawaii is ideally positioned to become part of the anticipated future growth in the western use of Indian and Chinese traditional medicines,” said Dr. Anthony Wright, director-designate of the Ph.D. program and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences. “This program will contribute to the development of young industries already taking root within the state.”

While the Ph.D. represents the highest academic degree, the new BAPS program offers an initial credential. Only students enrolled in the PharmD program who have completed UH Hilo’s General Education and Integrative Requirements are eligible for the BAPS, which would be completed after two years of being in the rigorous four-year PharmD program.
The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center, in cooperation with the UH Hilo Performing Arts Department, presents The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee on Friday and Saturday, April 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, April, 10 and 17 at 2 pm.

The musical comedy is directed by UH Hilo’s Jackie Pualani Johnson and “features six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, and learn that winning isn’t everything and that losing doesn’t necessarily make one a loser,” said PAC Manager Lee Dombroski.

“This hilarious tale of overachievers’ angst chronicles the experiences of these adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championships of a lifetime. The show’s Tony Award-winning creative team has crafted the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes -- a quirky, yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time,” she added.

The ensemble of actors include Performing Arts majors and UH Hilo students Kimo Apaka, Chloe Cornelius, Robbie Craddock, Kenny Davis, Cristina Hussey, BriAnna Johnson, Dailee Morrone, Baba Tavares and Scott Wuscher. Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin, Conceived by Rebecca Feldman, and Music Direction by Pedro Ka’awaloa.

“This fantastic production also includes audience participation where four audience volunteers will be recruited before every performance to participate on-stage as guest spellers,” Dombroski said. “Each new foursome will guarantee a new set of hilarious and unexpected experiences.”

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $15 General, $10 Discount and $7 UH Students/Children. Box Office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call x47310 or order online at Artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

April

1 Priority deadline to apply for Summer & Fall 2011 graduation
   “I” removal deadline: student to instructor
   Graduate thesis/dissertation to committee deadline
   Last day to apply for credit-by-exam for spring credit
   Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

2 Ocean Day, 9 a.m., PACRC, Keaukaha

8, 9 The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

10 The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission

15 “I” removal deadline: instructor to Registrar’s Office

15 Last day to submit credit-by-exam results to Registrar’s Office

15, 16 The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

17 The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission

21 CAFNRM Fair Day, noon – 2 p.m., CAFNRM breezeway

22 Holiday: Good Friday

29 Graduate thesis/dissertation to Library and Registrar’s Office deadline