Lawmakers to hear case for UH Hilo Pharmacy Building

by Ken Hupp

Drive by or visit the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo campus and you instantly see a transformation taking place, with construction on a new bookstore, student services building and a complex to house Ka Haka ‘Ula O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language highlighting the current activity, which is providing a welcome boost to Hawai‘i’s struggling economy.

The emerging build-out will get another shot-in-the-arm when work begins on the first student housing units since 1989 and the first living, learning community thanks to funding approved during the last legislative session. This year, lawmakers are being asked to address another glaring need by funding construction of a building to house the College of Pharmacy (CoP).

“This is our major legislative priority,” said University Relations Director Gerald De Mello.

UH Hilo hosts Community Vision Summit

One of our greatest accomplishments in 2011 was the University ‘ohana and surrounding local community working together to develop UH Hilo’s new strategic plan (see www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan). The long-term plan gives us a pathway to the future and guides us as we start 2012, placing strong emphasis on our kuleana, our responsibility, to improving the quality of life for our island’s people and our local community as a whole. One of the ways to honor this commitment is to strengthen partnerships and collaborations, share our understanding, and work together with the community to discover innovative ways to educate our citizens and grow our economy.

In December, I invited 27 leaders from our community—representatives of education, health, technology, business, local government, and community non-profits—to convene for a Community Vision Summit. The discussions were lively and fruitful, focusing on the strategic directions of UH Hilo in the coming years. The group talked about their shared vision of our island’s future, and how to build two-way relationships to reach our common goals.

Working together, the participants provided helpful guidance about the University’s role in strengthening our community. The importance of UH Hilo’s role in the P-20 education system was emphasized. There was a great sense of people wanting to work together to provide education and life-long learn-
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The need has been well documented as CoP currently operates out of five different locations and will require a permanent home to ensure continued accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). But winning approval for a big ticket item in an economic environment where there is more will than wall will be a formidable challenge.

To overcome that, administrators have revisited the program, reducing the recent $66 million price tag to $55 million and will seek to build the project in two phases. The 2012 request will total $33 million in General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds and $5 million in Revenue Bonds to build Phase I.

““This would include classrooms, teaching labs, offices and the related spaces needed to meet all the accreditation standards and guidelines of ACPE,” De Mello said. “We hope to incorporate all those elements by taking a good, hard look at what $38 million will buy us. The challenge will be the vivarium or where you do the research.”

That component is considered critical since strong research programs are the primary source of innovation, leading to the discovery and development of new pharmaceutical products and care programs to meet the health challenges of the 21st century. Likewise, it will be difficult for CoP to become one of the nation’s top 25 institutions without a thriving research arm.

“I think the vision of moving Pharmacy toward excellence is really tied to having a strong research component since the two go hand-in-hand. So it really boils down to a question of where it will be located,” De Mello said. “We still have the portable modules, which are relatively new and we could retrofit to house the research unit until the next phase is built.”

But is even $38 million too big a financial bite to digest? After all, the State Council on Revenues recently downgraded its revenue forecast from 14.5% growth to 11.5% for the current fiscal year ending June 30th. That revision amounts to a reduction of $130 million that lawmakers will have to work with in drafting the final supplemental budget for FY 2012 and 2013.

“The state’s fiscal climate is always a challenge and the Council’s revised forecast will certainly create a steeper hill for us to climb, especially when it comes to requesting more money for the operating budget,” De Mello said. “But one thing this initiative has going for it as a CIP request is that there is an early, visible return because this is a shovel-ready project that could begin construction as early as this spring and put people to work in construction for two years.”

And lawmakers will likely be reminded that the economic impact won’t end once construction is complete.

A study conducted by UH Hilo Economics Professor Dr. David Hammes estimated CoP’s annual economic impact at the time of last May’s inaugural graduation exceeded $50.2 million while supporting an additional $15 million in earnings. Hammes described the impact as a “significant growth pole within the University as well as the State.”

That impact will only grow as CoP produces highly trained health care professionals to address the shortage of qualified pharmacists. A CoP survey found 66% of the 84 graduating students had obtained a job or were working in a paid residency program and more than a third accepted jobs in Hawai‘i. The average full-time salary of those non-residency jobs is $117,000.

Class president and valedictorian Jessica Toyama is now employed as a pharmacist at Walgreens on O‘ahu while others have gone to work at places such as Hilo Medical Center, Kapi‘olani Medical Center, Mina Drugs, Safeway, CVS and Lihue Pharmacy.

Dean John Pezzuto noted that what began five years ago with borrowed classrooms, a small cohort of faculty and a group of 90 high-spirited and energetic students has grown to a faculty and staff of about 100, a student body of 350 and has graduated a class of competent health professionals from a fully accredited college.

“We are clearly positioned to meet the short- and long-term healthcare needs of Hawai‘i and the entire Pacific Region. Our sole limitation is a permanent pharmacy building,” Pezzuto said. “Once the building is complete, the College will be able to realize its full potential and continue on the path of reaching a top ranking on a national level.”

That’s an argument that former and current students are expected to make during the session as supporters present their case to lawmakers. But De Mello says a lot will also ride on the arguments of Big Island lawmakers, such as Representatives Jerry Chang and Clift Tsuji, who have identified funding for the Pharmacy Building as a top priority.

“The collective effort of the Big Island legislative delegation will be the key. It starts and ends with them embracing the initiative,” De Mello said. “Hopefully they will recognize the need and the workforce shortages in the health care industry that this building could address by anchoring Pharmacy in addition to allied fields like Nursing which we currently have, and Physical Therapy, which we may have in the future.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
ing opportunities matched to workforce development needs. In addition, emphasis was placed on undertaking research and development relevant to the people, environment, and culture of our island and state.

The discussion identified three key areas where UH Hilo could have the biggest impact on improving the quality of life on our island:

**Be a Catalyst for Local Economic Development.** A common concern was the Hawai‘i island economy and high unemployment. Participants observed that many local students must re-locate because Hawai‘i island does not have sufficient employment opportunities. Participants highlighted the role UH Hilo might play in building connections with local industries that could let students apply what they are learning to the workplace. Participants recommended this be achieved through educating and training local students to move into the island’s growing industries in health care, energy, agriculture and information technology. As these conversations expanded there emerged a larger recurring theme of UH Hilo as a “driver” for Hawai‘i island economic development, with UH Hilo not only taking the lead on the new job trends but also communicating this to the community. Participants felt this would produce a “fire in the belly” for motivation in education.

**Bridge Our Island’s Multiple Sectors.** One focus of discussion was the role that UH Hilo can play as a champion for dialogue between multiple sectors. Participants recommended the University develop an economic engine model that is rooted in the culture, values, traditions and community of the island, one that connects the University, K–12 education, industry, community, and policy. Participants also recommended public-private partnerships that enhance applied learning with feeder programs, where opportunities can enhance student retention. It was suggested the University start small by using successful programs, i.e., linking UH Hilo’s nationally-recognized computer science program with projects based in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM fields) that include the Thirty Meter Telescope’s future development, Hawai‘i Community College’s technology education, local high schools’ career academies, and Hawaiian culture with ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center.

**Strengthen Community Relationships.** While bridging across sectors was identified as important, equally so was the need to strengthen and maintain such relationships over time. Particularly noted was the need for the University to actively strengthen and maintain reciprocal relationships with local businesses, government, and non-profits to empower higher education and workforce development. For example, internships with small businesses to fuel student ambition and problem-solving capacity, build entrepreneurial skills, creativity, and critical thinking. It was also suggested that UH Hilo could help strengthen community relationships by empowering students to utilize local products in order to encourage local entrepreneurship and provide opportunities to create more jobs.

The Community Vision Summit was a great success and I appreciate the time and effort made by everyone. I was reminded that the greatest resource we have is the people of our island—when we put our minds to it, we can work together to create a bright future for our island and state. This summit is the first of a series of meetings where I plan to hear from different parts of the community about ways UH Hilo can drive local economic development, bridge our island’s multiple sectors, and strengthen the University’s relationships with the community.

You can read a full summary report on the summit and other news from the Office of the Chancellor on my blog [http://hilo.hawaii.edu/blog/chancellor/](http://hilo.hawaii.edu/blog/chancellor/).

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**February Focus on UH Hilo features international students/alumni**

Focus on UH Hilo this month highlights current and former students February 3 and 17, respectively. The show airs on Friday evening from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

The guest lineup for February 3 includes International Student Association (ISA) President Xiaohui Yang and Vice President Lei Bernard. Yang and Bernard will preview this year’s International Nights presentations and discuss other ISA activities.

UH Hilo Director of Marketing and Alumni Yu Yok Pearring and UH Hilo Alumni and Friends President Carol Van Camp appear on the February 17 telecast to discuss this year’s Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards event scheduled for February 24.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni Office at 974-7501 or 974-7643.
**Hats off to...**


**Michael Marshall**, Professor, Art, had his print, MT #65, selected from over 360 submissions for inclusion in the 27th Annual International Exhibition presented at the Meadow Gallery, University of Texas at Tyler. He is also included in The Biennial of Hawai‘i Artists Survey Exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, which runs through April 22.

**Faith Mishina**, Assistant Professor, Spanish, had her article, “A Framework for Expansion: The First Half of Gabriel García Marquez’s Strategic Postcolonial Trajectory,” accepted for publication in The International Journal of the Humanities. The paper was presented in Granada, Spain for The Ninth International Conference for the New Direction of the Humanities in 2011.

**Diane Barrett**, Associate Professor, Education, and Jan Ray, Assistant Professor, Education, co-authored and co-presented the paper, “More Than Teaching Toys – Managing Manipulatives for More Meaningful Mathematics Instruction” at the Hawai‘i International Conference in Education. Ray also co-authored and co-presented “The Facilitation of Professional Development by School Leaders: The Lesson Study Model.”

**John Pezzuto**, Dean, College of Pharmacy, served as host to more than 500 researchers at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America held in December at the Fairmont Orchid, Hawai‘i. Pezzuto was a featured speaker, and his research was presented in nine poster sessions. He also accepted an appointment to the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board.

**Andre Bachmann**, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-wrote “PEA 15 impairs cell migration and correlates with clinical features predicting good prognosis in neuroblastoma,” which was published in International Journal of Cancer.

**Ben Chavez**, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, published two articles in the journal Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning, a quarterly publication of high-quality, peer-reviewed articles relevant to all areas of pharmacy education: “The use of short downloadable lectures to supplement didactic lectures” and “Popular gameshows as educational tools in the pharmacy classroom.”

**Eugene Konorev**, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-wrote “Stretch-Induced Hypertrophy Activates NFkB-Mediated VEGF Secretion in Adult Cardiomyocytes,” which was published in PLoS ONE, an international, peer-reviewed high impact factor journal in the field of pharmaceutical sciences.
Signature alumni event honors 6 this month

Celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of our alumni and supporters is an annual tradition which the Alumni and Friends Association of UH Hilo takes pride in by way of its signature event: Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet.

Set for Friday, February 24th at UH Hilo’s Campus Center Dining Hall, this year’s award recipients in the Distinguished Alumni category include Gary Hara (Brigadier General for Hawai’i National Guard), Dennis O’Brien (Principal of E.B. DeSilva Elementary School), Gladys Sonomura (community volunteer), and Ross Wilson (Principal of Current Events).

Distinguished Service honorees are Dr. Miyoko Sugano (Professor Emeritus) and Jimmy Yagi (infamous coach).

This signature event features an entertaining program emceed by Newton Chu, a sumptuous buffet, and silent auction to raise scholarship funds. Cost is $75 per person or a table of eight for $600. The RSVP deadline is February 14th.

To make your reservations or for additional information, call the Marketing and Alumni Office at 974-7501 or 974-7643.

UH Hilo Ocean Day is February 18

The 5th annual University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Ocean Day Hawai‘i Malama Kanaloa Festival will be held on Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UH Hilo’s Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) in Keaukaha.

The event, hosted by PACRC in partnership with the UH Hilo Student Association, EPSCoR Hawai‘i IMUA III and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant, is free and open to the public.

Ocean Day is focused on increasing awareness of ocean and coastal issues such as conservation, sustainable use of resources and water safety through fun, interactive displays, activities and booths. The mission is to raise public awareness of the impact people have on the ocean environment, promote conservation of ocean and coastal resources in a culturally sensitive way, and communicate the outcomes of current ocean and coastal research, management and education efforts in Hawai‘i.

This year’s event will be bigger than ever with the addition of a giant humpback whale display and more informational booths, including UH Hilo Marine Science and Hawai‘i IMUA III EPSCoR researchers, the Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources, Marine Mammal Response Network, Hawai‘i Island Hawksbill Monitoring Project, NOAA’s Mokupapapa Discovery Center, and many other organizations and community groups involved with protecting Hawai‘i’s natural resources. Ocean Day also provides visitors an opportunity to tour PACRC, view ongoing research projects and interact with others who want to work together to care for ocean communities.

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

For more information, contact Ho‘oululahui Perry at hperry@hawaii.edu or Michele Kubojiri at mkubojr@hawaii.edu or call 933-3289.

UH Hilo Report still has room for you!

Need to publicize a non-commercial topic like an event, research project, new program or degree? The UH Hilo Report is a one-minute radio feature that airs daily on 67 AM KPUA, B97 and B93-FM, and KWXX-FM during the academic year. And best of all, it’s provided at no charge.

If you are interested in having your program, event or news featured on the UH Hilo Report, contact Ken Hupp via hupp@hawaii.edu. There are available slots for March, April, and May.
UH Hilo International Nights 2012 is Feb 17, 18

The UH Hilo International Student Association presents International Nights 2012 on Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18 at 7:30 pm in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center. This annual show features performances from around the world and is a favorite event among students, the community, and visitors. Among the many cultures to be represented are Hawai‘i, Samoa, the Philippines, Micronesia, Korea, New Zealand, Palau, Ireland and the USA.

The show on Friday, February 17 will also include a special performance by a visiting group from Indonesia. The group will perform excerpts from the Randai play “The Genteel Sabai,” featuring dance, music, songs and martial arts. Randai is a traditional folk dance-drama of Indonesia, closely connected to the spiritual and cultural life of the Minangkabau people of West Sumatra. Traditionally performed in the villages for communal celebrations, Randai features elements of various performing arts that are uniquely Minang.

Tickets are $10 general admission and $5 for students, children, and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased with cash or checks in-person at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Box Office from 9 am to 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday, or at the door. Credit or debit card orders by phone or at the Box Office are not available. As the shows typically sell out, it is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance.

For more information, contact the UH Hilo International Student Services Office at 974-7313.

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center awarded Native Universe grant

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, the Indigenous Education Institute, and the University of California at Berkeley recently received a collaborative National Science Foundation (NSF) four-year grant for work on a joint project called Native Universe: Indigenous Voice in Museums.

The grant awarded $1,931,043 to the collaboration where the goal is to bridge native and western science learning in informal education settings.

“We are excited to have received this award in partnership with U.C. Berkeley and the Indigenous Education Institute,” said Ka‘iu Kimura, ‘Imiloa’s executive director. “‘Imiloa has much to contribute to the efforts of the international science center community in advocating for deep systemic change to fully infuse indigenous voice throughout informal science education experiences. We look forward to this collaboration with our partners and our local and global community.”

The project builds on the successful NSF-funded Cosmic Serpent professional development project, which explores commonalities between native and western science, enabling participants to use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) as an entry point for museum programs and exhibits.

The Native Universe project will reach a primary audience of up to 350 museum staff at all levels and 2,700 volunteers at the Case Study Museums, and an additional 250 museum personnel in the Community of Practice. The project will reach a secondary audience of 1.8 million visitors at the three participating museums, including American Indian/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders as target audiences.
**PIPES internship applications available**

UH Hilo’s Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) is currently conducting open recruitment for its 2012 summer program, which runs May 29th - August 10th. Undergraduate students of Native Hawaiian ancestry, other kama‘aina, under-represented minorities, and first-generation college students are encouraged to apply for opportunities in paid summer environmental internships statewide. The application deadline is Friday, February 10.

PIPES encompasses three unique summer internship programs, including the University of Hawai‘i Hawaiian Internship Program (UHHIP), the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), and the Micronesian & American Samoa Student Internship Program (MASSIP). The programs combined under PIPES target a broad range of students from different majors, with common interests in conservation sciences, resource management, and environmental education and outreach.

Students work side-by-side with their host agency mentors on an identified experiential project. PIPES interns also participate in the annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference (HCC), which provides an opportunity to network with researchers, land managers, and other Hawai‘i-based conservation and environmental professionals. The program concludes with a student symposium where interns present their research and summer work to all program participants, staff, and partnering agencies.

Since its founding, PIPES programs have connected over 300 undergraduate students to rich and meaningful summer internship experiences throughout Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Previous participants have gone on to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees and have also become increasingly influential professionals in Hawai‘i’s conservation and resource management fields.

Online applications are being accepted at the PIPES website, www.hilo.hawaii.edu/uhintern. For more information, contact Ulu Ching at moanac@hawaii.edu, Noelani Puniwai at npuniwai@hawaii.edu or call the PIPES office at 933-0705.

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**UH Hilo PAC presents No2 February 9**

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center presents a one-woman play, No2, on Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. for one performance only.

“Written by Toa Fraser and performed by Madeleine Sami, No2 is comprised of nine characters ranging from a feisty Fijian/New Zealand matriarch to a lovesick rugby player,” said Lee Dombroski, Performing Arts Center manager. “The play takes place one scorching hot summer’s day when family matriarch, Nanna Maria, wakes up and decides she wants a feast complete with pig on a spit, red wine in bottles, not cartons, and a priest – just like in Italy. At the feast, Nanna Maria intends to name her successor – her number two. Only her grandchildren – and none of her children – have been invited apart from one outsider, Father Francis ... and there is one more unexpected surprise guest.”

No2 premiered in 1999 to critical and audience acclaim, winning the Chapman Tripp New Zealand Theatre Award for Best NZ Play and touring to Edinburgh where it won a Fringe First Award in 2000, followed by a successful international tour. No2 was made into a movie, which debuted at the Sundance Festival in 2006. The play, starring the original performer Madeleine Sami, was remounted in 2009 in Auckland, NZ to mark its 10th anniversary.

The play is produced by Strata Creative Limited, originally performed at Silo Theatre, NZ, and the Hawai‘i tour is supported by Creative New Zealand, the arts council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

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 974-7310 or order online at: artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

February

3  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
9  No2, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
17 Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
20 Holiday: Presidents’ Day
21 Bad Boys of Dance, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
24 UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet, 5:00 pm, CCDR 📩

Buy 3 items, get a free ticket.
Now through Feb. 14

Buy from participating vendors at KTA Super Stores and see a UH Hilo Vulcans basketball home game, free!

At no additional cost. Limit 2 tickets per customer per transaction. See store for details.