Selective quality to trump quantity at 2010 legislature
by Ken Hupp

The 2010 session of the State Legislature convenes this month, with lawmakers facing the daunting challenge of improving Hawai`i’s economic, educational and social climate against the backdrop of a growing budget deficit. Conventional wisdom would suggest that the odds of getting any initiatives funded this year are somewhere in the neighborhood of slim to none.

However, with pressing needs, UH Hilo may yet win funding for key initiatives in a session where lawmakers will be trying to do more with less. The appeal is a combination of demonstrated need to keep pace with growing enrollment coupled with a proven economic track record. It’s a message the University has been developing and fine-tuning at legislative and community presentations the past several weeks where administrators have laid the groundwork for the upcoming session.

“First of all, we appreciate everything the legislature has done to support us these past several years where we’ve done very well,” University Relations Director Gerald De Mello told members of the House and Senate finance committees during a November campus visit. “But the bottom line is we’re struggling to service an enrollment that has grown by almost 40 percent these past 11 years to nearly 4,000 students.”

Enrollment typically picks up even more in tough times like the current economic climate. House Higher Education Com-

Campus Center under renovation

A major renovation of the Campus Center’s 3rd floor is underway and includes remodeling and reconfiguring Rooms 301, 306 and 307, which will enable the Campus Center to offer newly renovated meeting rooms, a space for the UH Hilo Student Activities Council, and a new Pacific Islands Center. The project should be completed in September 2010.

During the renovation, these rooms will be unavailable for use. However, Room 301 may become available for evening and weekend use after demolition work is completed this month. The Gallery in Room 301 and the 3rd floor lobby will remain open during most of the renovation. Work includes changing the roof to accommodate new air conditioning equipment and ducts as well as solar panels.

When the renovation is completed, the Student Activities Center will move to its new office being created from the alcove in Room 301. The majority of Room 301 will continue to serve as a meeting/event space. The Pacific Island Student Center will be in Room 307 and Room 306 will be a new meeting room with a solid wall separating it from Room 307.

“We understand that securing spaces for meetings or events may be challenging during this period, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause,” said Campus Center Director Ellen Kusano.

It is suggested that individuals or groups looking for a space to hold meetings or events during the renovation period consider other options on campus. Contact CCECS at x47664 for information on alternate facilities that may be available.
Legislature
Continued from page 1

mittee Chair Jerry Chang, the senior member of the Big Island house delegation and a UH Hilo graduate, acknowledges the challenge, but believes this is no time to back away from investing in higher education.

“It’s more important than ever that we target the additional adult learners who have decided to return to school after job losses,” Chang said. “We need to strengthen and increase the number of students who earn degrees and certificates to better meet our future modern workforce demands.”

Chang said he believes initiatives for graduates in high demand fields, and for efficient, cost effective instructional delivery stand the best chance of being funded this session. But while programs are one thing, facilities are another. De Mello and others point out that UH Hilo is still largely operating with buildings and infrastructure that was designed for an enrollment one quarter of the current size, while other programs have emerged, grown and developed despite not having a place to call home.

House Finance Committee Chair Marcus Oshiro, who spent two years at UH Hilo, said lawmakers will have to address the greatest needs within a UH System where insufficient facilities are not unique to any one campus. While he believes UH Hilo’s case has been made and well taken, he also agrees the message bears repeating.

“My of us are alumni, have personal pride for the University, and will do our best to provide resources in these tough times, but it must be through a fair process,” Oshiro said. “It’s important that UH Hilo continue to keep the issue and the need top of mind for the community and the legislature.”

Perhaps no program has a greater need than the College of Hawaiian Language, which is spread out over three different locations on campus, with space at such a premium that some offices are occupied or shared by up to 16 people. The University has settled on a site on Nowelo Street in the University Park of Science and Technology for a permanent facility that would house all the functions in one, centralized location. The project is on the Board of Regents priority list and De Mello hopes this will be the year that lawmakers begin to appropriate money toward the $31 million cost of construction.

The College of Pharmacy finds itself in a similar situation, with operations dispersed over five different locations on campus and throughout the community. A new, permanent location is required for accreditation and Governor Linda Lingle this fall released $5 million lawmakers appropriated last year for planning and design. Money for construction can be sought once that process is completed.

One other item being sought is $4 million in planning, design and construction for water infrastructure improvements. The project will provide a well pump, transmission lines and related improvements to ensure sufficient water supply for the University Park’s long range planning needs, including the Colleges of Hawaiian Language and Pharmacy, new student housing and research and telescope base facilities.

But University officials aren’t relying solely on demonstrated need to win approval for their initiatives. They also contend UH Hilo is precisely the type of investment that lawmakers should look to in order to leverage their limited financial resources. Chancellor Rose Tseng noted that a recent study revealed UH Hilo generated $240 million in economic activity during the 2007-2008 period.

“Our economic impact is substantial,” said Tseng. “We account for 610 direct and 3,907 indirect jobs, so we are definitely a major employer.”

Oshiro says the criteria for deciding which initiatives are funded cannot be boiled down to one determining factor. But said the economic data is compelling.

“These are facts and data that are measureable, speaks for itself and provides a more solid base for decisions,” Oshiro said. Big Island State Senator Dwight Takamine, who preceded Oshiro as House Finance chair, believes those numbers tell an important story.

“This data simply confirms what some of us have believed for some time by demonstrating that UH Hilo is a key component of the Big Island economy and an economic engine for the state of Hawai‘i,” Takamine said. “That makes the University and higher education in general an area that can provide job growth and sustainable economic activity.”

A major source of indirect employment is through applied research activities financed through extramural funding. The level of funding has grown from just $3.2 million in 1996 to the current level of $20.1 million, or about one fourth of the University’s budget.

State Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Donna Mercado Kim said the progress UH Hilo has made toward attracting research funding, as well as the economic activity attributed to the campus, is “impressive.” While she anticipates few, if any initiatives being funded, Kim seemed to suggest that those factors would still benefit the all important bottom line.

“Since state dollars are scarce, efforts made by state agencies to locate alternative sources of funding are welcome,” Kim said. “The legislature has been wary of reductions of government activities that serve to support and stimulate economic activity.”

Given the economic impact of higher education, the legislature could elect to fund other projects for other institutions within the 10-member UH System—especially on O‘ahu where most of the lawmakers reside and represent constituents. But Tseng and De Mello believe UH Hilo has a unique feature that the others can’t match.

“This is the largest university in the statewide system, so we’re the campus that has the capacity to grow,” Tseng said.
College of Pharmacy brings big bucks home

by Maggie Morris

By the time its inaugural class graduates next year, the College of Pharmacy will stimulate more than $50 million per year in economic activity in the State, according to a study by UH Hilo Professor of Economics Dr. David Hammes.

Hammes conducted an analysis of data based on the period between 2008 through 2012.

The CoP brought in $4.2 million revenue from tuition for the 2008-2009 academic year. Tuition revenues benefit the University in many ways, including providing a significant contribution to the UH Hilo general scholarship fund. When the College completes its growth arc in 2011-2012, Hammes projects tuition revenues will more than double to $9.6 million.

“These are tuition dollars that would not come to Hawai`i without this program,” Hammes said. “It’s interesting and important to note that wage and salary costs associated with the faculty and staff jobs currently State-funded within the College are significantly more than funded by the new tuition revenues alone.”

But beyond tuition revenues, students, faculty and staff are responsible for injecting $7.7 million into the local economy in 2009 alone through increased spending by visitors, attracting grant and research funds, and on living expenses.

“I have always believed that UH Hilo would have a major role in advancing academic opportunities not only for our local students, but also for students from out-of-state,” said community leader Barry Taniguchi, president & CEO of KTA Super Stores. “UH Hilo’s College of Pharmacy is a major exporter of knowledge by training out-of-state students who will pay higher tuition fees to help financially support the University and will return to their respective home states to boast about the great education and experience they received while attending UH Hilo. Here at home, the College of Pharmacy educates Hawaiian students who will stay in Hawai`i, at the same time infusing our community with bright new faculty and their families who will help to sustain our way of life by contributing economically, educationally and socially.”

Every dollar generated by the program is not at the expense of other University or State programs, Hammes said. Each dollar used by the State in salary and wages for CoP attracts a new $3.38 from outside sources. If the College grows as planned, this figure will be $4.04 by 2012 and will level out to $3.58, Hammes said.

“I am pleased to see tangible evidence of residents of the Big Island strengthening the economy and showcasing our academic and research capabilities, and I congratulate a far-seeing University administration, specifically Chancellor Rose Tseng, as well as the Board of Regents for their support of this effort to build a professional College of Pharmacy in our State,” said U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

Dean John Pezzuto said he was encouraged by the results of the study showing a positive influence on the finances of the State.

“Our continuous growth means we can concentrate on another matter of utmost importance, which is improving the condition of health care throughout the entire Pacific region,” Pezzuto said.

(Editor’s note: Maggie Morris is a public information officer, College of Pharmacy.)
Hats off to...

Todd Belt, Associate Professor, Political Science, had his paper on “Homeless Management: Evaluating Governmental and Faith-Based Mandates on Homeless Persons” accepted for presentation at the 2010 Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. The paper is co-authored with UH Hilo student Shannon Northrop.

Michael Crosby, Interim Vice Chancellor, Research, was elected the 74th president of Sigma Xi at the Society’s 2009 Annual Meeting in The Woodlands, TX, in November. He will begin his three-year service in 2011 as president-elect.

Julie Adrian, Assistant Professor, Animal Science, and Chris Frueh, along with former masters student, Aimee Deliramich, had their manuscript “Complicated Grief and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Humans’ Response to the Death of Pets/Animals” published in the Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic, Fall 2009. The Bulletin is the oldest psychology journal in existence and manuscripts are peer-reviewed, refereed, and indexed on MedLine, the primary index for all biomedical research.


Catherine Becker, Associate Professor, Communication, is serving as reviewer for Communication and Medicine.

Walter Dudley, Professor, Oceanography, gave an invited presentation at Cornell University as part of its Fall Graduate Seminar Series in the Dept of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He presented information on tsunami destruction, rebuilding, and tsunami resilient structure and community design in tsunami-impacted areas from south Asia to Alaska to Samoa. He was also an invited reviewer of the newly released California state earthquake and tsunami guide, Living on Shaky Ground.

Helen Wong Smith, Librarian, has been appointed the first full-time archivist at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park for one year. A Certified Archivist and twice Past-President of the Association of Hawai’i Archivists, she serves on the Society of American Archivists’ Education Committee focusing on diversity outreach.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, has been selected as one of three University of Canterbury Visiting Canterbury Fellows in Christchurch, New Zealand, Aotearoa, during spring 2010. As a Fellow, he will lecture and conduct seminars with students in the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury. Also, he recently participated in “The Field Report,” a national juried print exhibition sponsored by the Boston Printmakers at the W. Keith and Janet Kellog Gallery of Art in Rarick Hall, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.

Hats off - continued on page 5.
Hats Off
Continued from page 4

Christopher Lu, Professor, Animal Science, served as a member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Team to California State University of Los Angeles. The Team completed the Institutional Capacity Review and site visit and will conduct the Educational Effectiveness Review and site visit next.

Elizabeth Stacy, Assistant Professor, Biology, has accepted an invitation to serve on the Evolutionary Processes Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant advisory panel in February 2010 at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA.

Darius Kalvaitis, Assistant Professor, Education, received a $66,590 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Education Office for the Hawai‘i Island Coast Education and Stewardship (HICES) project, which will build partnerships between coastal environmental education related organizations, train pre-service teachers, educate K-6 students, and engage the community to advance environmental education and stewardship through formal and informal education efforts.

UH Regents and Presidential Scholarships available

Online applications and information are now available for the University of Hawai‘i Regents and Presidential Scholarships for students with outstanding academic records who are residents of the State of Hawai‘i. The application deadline is February 1, 2010. The online application includes a résumé section, personal statement and recommendation forms. All supporting materials must be postmarked by the deadline.

The Regents Scholarship provides 20 entering freshmen attending any UH campus with a tuition waiver and a $2,000 stipend each semester for four consecutive years of undergraduate study, and the opportunity to apply for a one-time, maximum $2,000 travel grant. Selection is based on a combined SAT score of 1950 on all three sections of the test, or ACT combined score of at least 29, a 3.5 high school GPA, academic co-curricular activities, community service, superior academic achievement, or creative endeavors. Scholarship applicants must apply and be accepted to a UH campus.

The Presidential Scholarship recognizes the outstanding achievements of 10 undergraduate college juniors within the UH System. The scholarship provides a tuition waiver and a $2,000 stipend each semester for two consecutive years of undergraduate study at any UH baccalaureate campus, and the opportunity to apply for a one-time, maximum $2,000 travel grant. Qualifications are based on a minimum cumulative 3.7 GPA for all college work, superior academic achievement or creative endeavors, academic co-curricular and community service activities in college, and junior standing at the commencement of award.

The online application and information are available at http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/studentaffairs/scholarships/raps-overview.php.

For more information, contact Barbara Bostwick at x47619 or bostwick@hawaii.edu.
Philanthropy as modern-day alchemy

by Margaret Shiba

In her first year at UH Hilo, Pahoa resident Rosario Colon could not afford the $300-$400 necessary to purchase the textbooks required for her coursework. A single mother balancing a job along with schoolwork, Rosario made do by borrowing books or photocopies from classmates. This past fall, however, her 4.0 GPA qualified her for the G.Y. Sonomura Scholarship, an award reserved for single parents who meet a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Expressing gratitude upon meeting the donor behind her scholarship, Gladys Sonomura, at UH Hilo’s November 2 Scholarship Banquet, Rosario commented, “I was so humbled and grateful to be able to thank her in person for enabling me to stay in school and pursue my dreams. One day when I am a business owner, I can’t wait to do the same for other needy students.”

With undergraduate tuition rising 12-15% each year and the economy in deep recession, over 65% of UH Hilo students—the highest percentage of any of the ten UH campuses—depend upon some form of financial assistance. Private scholarships play an increasingly critical role in making higher education accessible and affordable for students in Hawai’i.

Thanks to an unprecedented $1.5 million anonymous gift to UH Hilo, scholarship donors like Gladys Sonomura are doubling the value of their support through a unique matching gift opportunity. For a limited time only, UH Hilo is using the first $1 million of the anonymous donation on a program which matches new scholarship donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Chancellor Rose Tseng stated, “A groundbreaking gift like this presents us with an opportunity that doesn’t come along very often—to transform one donor’s generous gift of $1 million into a $2 million scholarship fund, by leveraging additional gifts from the local community.”

To date, UH Hilo has spent nearly half of the $1 million matching fund on one-to-one matches for new donations. Through this modern-day alchemy, 22 new scholarships have been established, including 6 new permanently endowed scholarships and 16 four-year scholarships.

In addition to Gladys Sonomura, donors and honorees include Masami and Mae Aito, Coach Jimmy Yagi, Amer Ari, Lawrence Silva, James and Grace Arakaki, the Dodo Family, the Lee Ting You Family, and Subaru Telescope.

Today private scholarships are making a difference for more than 100 UH Hilo students like Rosario Colon, but thanks to the power of philanthropy that number will grow dramatically over the next four years. Donors interested in taking advantage of the remaining matching scholarship funds are invited to contact the Office of Development at x31945.

(Editors note: Margaret Shiba is senior director of development.)

Athletics kicks off spring Focus on UH Hilo

Focus on UH Hilo launches its spring schedule with an update on intercollegiate athletics. The show is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng and airs live Wednesday evening during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Athletic Director Dexter Irvin appears on the January 20th telecast to discuss a wide range of topics, including the new logo, moving basketball games to campus, new personnel, the status of programs under review, and scholarships.

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 x47501 or x47643.
National Science Foundation grant to fund new telescope instrumentation

UH Hilo has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund major research instrumentation for the University’s Hoku Kea Telescope atop Mauna Kea. Funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, the award totals $141,664 over a three-year period.

“We’re delighted that NSF has awarded us this grant,” said Principal Investigator Dr. David James. “This project is an important part of our plan to transform the Physics and Astronomy Department from the traditional lecture-based Community College model to a research-based, professional, modern academic teaching and research group.”

The project, entitled “MRI Acquisition: Hawai‘i-based Undergraduate Leadership in Astronomy (HULA) by Acquiring Instrumentation For an Educational 1m-Class Telescope,” involves the design, construction and commission of a new digital optical camera and a spectrograph which will be used to analyze the light from stars. The new equipment will enable faculty astronomers to conduct important scientific research, while providing training and scientific research opportunities for UH Hilo undergraduate students.

In awarding the grant, NSF noted that the combination of the new one-meter class telescope and its location atop one of the world’s premier sites for observational astronomy places UH Hilo among an elite group of undergraduate institutions capable of providing faculty and students with research-grade telescopes and instrumentation.

“This brings us one step closer to fulfillment of our vision when the 24-inch telescope was retired,” said Co-Principal Investigator Dr. William Heacox. “The addition of these new instruments will set the stage for faculty and students to engage in the kind of nuts and bolts astronomy research and publishing opportunities that will take this program to the next level.”

Legislature
Continued from page 2

“With a central campus of 593 acres, 719 total acres and an enrollment just south of 4,000, UH Hilo is where you can achieve the greatest long-term bang for the buck, so it makes good sense to invest here,” added De Mello.

Two projects legislators have funded to address the University’s enrollment surge are moving forward with the Science and Technology Building, now under construction on Lanikaula Street and expected to be completed by 2011. Construction will also begin soon on the new Student Services Building. Both facilities will replace out-grown facilities and house its respective operations under one roof.

Past support is also enabling the University to plan for the future through the creation of a long-range plan being developed by PBR Consultants. The study will become the guiding blueprint for UH Hilo’s future by identifying the most optimum locations for student housing, commercial space and other physical assets.

While making no promises about specific requests, lawmakers generally appear pleased with what they’ve heard about the University’s future plans and direction.

“I believe UH Hilo’s future projection of 5,000 students is very realistic and attainable,” Chang said. “When you look at the funding support for the College of Pharmacy, the Student Life Center, the Science and Technology and Student Services buildings, it is evident that the Legislature is confident of the future growth of UH Hilo.”

Oshiro described the goals laid out for UH Hilo over the next five, ten and 20 years as “very bold and exciting.” He says its important now for the UH President and Board of Regents to prioritize their development plans and communicate those priorities with the community, including the legislature.

Although observers are expecting few initiatives to be funded this session, today’s tough economic climate will eventually give way to better days. By making a compelling case now, the University should be well positioned to benefit when investment dollars become more plentiful and take a major step toward fulfilling its long-term vision.

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

### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event 1</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event 2</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Holiday: New Year’s</td>
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<td>4-8</td>
<td>Orientation, Advising, Registration</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Last day to receive 100% refund of tuition &amp; fees</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>First day of instruction</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Last day to receive 100% refund of tuition</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Last day to register or add a class</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Last day to exercise Credit/No Credit option</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>15th Annual Ho’olaule’a, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., UH Hilo campus</td>
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<td>Last day to submit Auditors form</td>
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<td><em>The Comedy of Robert Post, 7:30 p.m., PAC,</em> Admission</td>
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<td>Last day to submit approved Fall 2010 curriculum documents to Registrar</td>
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