UH Hilo seeks Pharmacy Building with Governor’s backing

by Ken Hupp

A building to house the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s College of Pharmacy will top the wish lists of both the UH System and UH Hilo when the 2013 session of the legislature convenes on January 16. When University officials take their request to lawmakers, they’ll do so with the backing of a key player at the state capital, following Governor Neil Abercrombie’s announcement that he’s including the $33 million request in his legislative package.

“This is significant not just because it’s the only project he’s endorsed. It’s also a big deal because the Governor’s budget speaks loud and clear by setting the tone and direction of where he wants to go,” said former University Relations Director Gerald De Mello, who along with Hawai‘i Island lawmakers and other supporters has spent the past two years making their case for the building.

“By taking this action, he is effectively saying this is a priority in terms of his vision for leading this state.”

Abercrombie’s support is also a sign that he views the College of Pharmacy as an entity that serves the entire state, much like the William S. Richardson School of Law and John A. Burns School of Medicine.

“We’ve met every benchmark and crossed many milestones over the past five years by achieving full accreditation, starting graduate programs and residencies and reaching out to communities throughout...
Pharmacy Building
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the state,” said College of Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto.
“This shows he is well aware of our steady progress and
shares our vision to improve health and healthcare in Hawai‘i
and the Pacific Region. I deeply appreciate the commitment
he has made to our mission by supporting a permanent home
for the College and am extremely pleased I was able to thank
him in person.”

The $33 million in General Obligation Bonds would be
matched by $5 million in Revenue Bonds. That proposal is
identical to the request that nearly passed in 2012.

The building is critical to the future of the College, which
has operations spread out over four different locations on
and off campus. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy
Education (ACPE) awarded the College full accreditation in
2011, but warned that that could all change if no significant
progress is made toward securing financing for and construc-
tion of permanent facilities by the time ACPE returns for
another site visit in March or April of this year.

“The college or school must have adequate and appropri-
ate physical facilities to achieve its mission and the physical
facilities must facilitate interaction among administration,
faculty and students,” the team wrote.

The lead role in navigating the proposal through the
legislature will fall to De Mello’s successor, who will work
with Chancellor Don Straney, Dean Pezzuto and the Hawai‘i
Island legislative delegation, although De Mello says he’ll
be available as a community volunteer if they decide he can
help position it for passage.

“Our Hawai‘i Island delegation has been very helpful and
supportive,” De Mello said. “Especially Senator Gil Kahele,
who has been relentless in his efforts and follow-up, which
played a big role in winning the Governor’s backing. So we
have a good team in place that is working hard.”

Beyond the Pharmacy Building there are various requests
in the operating budget approved by the Board of Regents.
Among those items is funding for engineering faculty to
launch a new General Engineering Program in the College
of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management
(CAFNRM), which would result in CAFNRM being renamed
the College of Agriculture and Applied Science.

The program would be a collaborative effort with UH
Manoa and focus on areas like biofuel and renewable energy
technologies, food/feed engineering and safety and instru-
mental systems. CAFNRM Interim Dean Bruce Mathews
said the proposal has drawn strong support from the Hawai‘i
Island engineering community, which is looking to the pro-
gram to address a growing need.

“It is projected that the island will need approximately
39 engineers per year over the next decade,” Mathews said.
“They are hoping that locally trained hires will enhance em-
ployment retention and reduce industry training costs.”

Another proposal would fund establishment of a program
in Historic Preservation Management as part of the Anthro-
pology curriculum. The initiative is seen as a one-of-a-kind
program that could produce the next generation of experts in
areas like historic buildings and trails, pre-plantation history,
burials and other cultural issues.

Ultimately, the University’s legislative scorecard will be
shaped by the economic climate that presides over the 2013
session.

“The most important thing to understand about the legis-
lature is that they have to work around a balanced budget,”
De Mello said. “That’s the first rule and everything else
flows from there.”

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

New Director to head UH Hilo College of Hawaiian Language

UH Hilo Chancellor Don Straney has announced that Dr. Keiki K.C. Kawai’ae’a is the new
Kawai’ae’a succeeds Dr. Kalena Silva, founding director of the College.

“Under Dr. Silva’s leadership, the College has developed a world renowned indigenous lan-
guage immersion program of education from pre-school through the Ph.D.,” Straney noted. He
added that Silva will return to an instructional role in the College focusing on teaching and various
creative endeavors. Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani was awarded collegiate status in 1998.

Kawai’ae’a is the founding director of the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program
and past director of the Hale Kuamo’o Hawaiian Language and Culture Center. She has been
Principal Investigator on numerous grants and has compiled a distinguished record of research
and artistic achievements. Earlier this year, Kawai’ae’a completed her Doctorate at Union Institute and University in
Cincinnati, Ohio, specializing in Indigenous Education.

Keiki Kawai’ae’a

Keiki Kawai’ae’a
Coach Estrella to retire

Joey Estrella will be stepping down after the 2013 season.

“The significance of this special individual, and his influence on young people, cannot be overstated,” noted Athletic Director Dexter Irvin. “Coach Estrella has been a wise, caring and influential leader in the lives of our student athletes. He will be missed on the baseball field and in our department.

“The values and ethics that Coach E. lives by, and has shared with us, will continue to be felt for many years.”

Estrella enters his 37th season at the helm of the Vulcans program with a 648-897-5 record.

“After 36 years, I feel it is time for a change for me and the program,” Estrella said. “Although I am in good health and still have a passion to coach and help student-athletes, it is time to pursue another chapter in my life.

“It is also a time for the program to have a new vision and path with hopes of continuing to make the program successful on the field and in the classroom. I am proud that baseball has had a good graduation rate and I hope the program can continue to attract good overall student-athletes.”

Starting the program in 1976 as a member of the NAIA, it took Estrella three years to reach the post-season. His first winning season came in 1980 with a 25-19 record that started a string of 11 consecutive winning seasons. During that string, his 1983 team set a school mark with a 41-10 record, a .804 winning percentage and would make their first NAIA Area Playoffs. In 1986, his team swept through the Area Playoffs and made their first appearance in the NAIA World Series. Such success brought Estrella the NAIA District 29 and Area 1 Coach of the Year awards. His teams would also make the World Series two of the next three years, and Estrella was selected 1989’s Area Coach of the Year. In all, Estrella’s teams appeared in three NAIA World Series, recorded five NAIA District Championships and participated in 12 consecutive post-season play-offs.

Following 17 years in the NAIA, the 1993 Vulcans became an independent NCAA Division I program for 13 seasons before joining the NCAA Division II Pacific West Conference in 2007.

Off the baseball field, his program has been a staunch supporter of the Special Olympics for over 30 years and has been the driving force behind the UHH Blood Bank of Hawai’i Drive for over 15 years.

Besides coaching, Estrella has been an assistant basketball coach (1976-80), athletic director (1980-89), assistant athletic director for external affairs (2009) and assistant athletic director for community engagement (2009-present).
Hats off to...

Drew Martin, Professor, Marketing, co-authored the conference paper, “Does Telic/Paratelic User Mode Matter on the Effectiveness of Interactive Internet Advertising?” which received Best Conference Honorable Mention at the 2012 Global Marketing Conference in Seoul, Korea. Additionally, his manuscript, “Foreign Women Role Dynamics in Japanese Television Advertising: Content Analyses Probing a Cultural Convergence Paradigm,” was recently published by the European Journal of Marketing.

Chris Frueh, Professor, Psychology, gave an invited talk on “Disability Evaluations of PTSD and Related Psychiatric Conditions” at the National Board of Medical Examiners’ annual Disability Services meeting in Philadelphia, PA in December. He also was a co-author on “Effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral trauma treatment for incarcerated women with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders,” published in the Journal of Anxiety Disorders 2012; 26:703-710.

Todd Belt, Associate Professor, Political Science, provided campaign and election analysis for The Washington Times, The Sacramento Bee, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, the Hawai‘i Tribune-Herald, KPUA 670 AM radio, radio shows Island Issues and The Conversation on Hawai‘i Public Radio, and the TV show Hawai‘i Political Reporter. Also, his chapter, “Viral Videos: Reinforcing Stereotypes of Female Candidates,” was published in the book Women and the White House, University Press of Kentucky. His article, “Power and Character in the 2012 Presidential Election,” was published in the Fall 2012 issue of Presidents and Executive Politics.

Katherine Anderson, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, presented a poster, “Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Medi-Cog, and Pillbox Loading Accuracy,” at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) annual conference in National Harbor, MD. Anderson is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and Fellow of ASCP and the first ASCP Foundation Practice Innovation awardee for developing the Medi-Cog, a cognitive/pillbox skills screen used to predict patient accuracy in organizing medication.

Mahavir Chuogule, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was invited to join the editorial boards of Journal of Pharmacogenomics & Pharmacoproteomics and Journal of Biomolecular Research & Therapeutics. In addition, students working with Chuogule presented the following research last fall: “Preliminary study of Transdermal permeation of Magnesium cream formulations across skin” at XIIIth International Magnesium Symposium in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico; and “Modeling and Validation of Material Properties of Crystalline Particles: formation and stability under stress,” Engineering Research Council meeting, IAB conference, National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center on Structured Organic Particulate Systems, New York, NY.

Amy Knehans, Health Sciences Librarian, has been elected as Chair-Elect/ Program Chair and Credentialing Committee Liaison of the Hawai‘i-Pacific Chapter of the Medical Library Association, a national non-profit educational organization of more than 1,100 institutions.

Jiren Feng, Assistant Professor, Chinese, was invited by Seoul National University to present his research paper, “Craftsmen and Construction as Government Order and Indoctrination: The Confucian Promotion of Standardized Architectural Knowledge in Premodern China,” at the international workshop on “Science and Confucian Statecraft in East Asia” in Seoul, South Korea, last month.
UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards Banquet is Feb 22

Faculty and staff are invited to the 13th Annual UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet on Friday, February 22 at the UH Hilo Campus Center beginning at 5 pm. The deadline to RSVP is February 8.

The 2013 Distinguished Alumni honorees are Eric Matsumoto (16th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i), Larry Kimura (Assistant Professor of Hawaiian Language and Culture), and Valerie Takata (Complex Area Superintendent for State of Hawai‘i, DOE, Hilo-Waiakea). The Distinguished Service honoree is Gerald De Mello, former director, University Relations.

Tickets are $75 each or $600 for a table of eight and may be purchased by contacting the Marketing and Alumni Office at 974-7501 or 974-7643. This signature event includes a buffet and live and silent auctions. Proceeds from the auctions help sponsor the UH Hilo Alumni Scholarship Fund, which helps to provide opportunities for immediate relatives of UH Hilo alumni or alumni themselves returning for another degree.

More information is available at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni.

The Intergalactic Nemesis lands at UH Hilo January 11

The Intergalactic Nemesis: Book One Target Earth performs at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center on Friday, January 11 at 7:30 pm.

“This is a one-of-a-kind all-ages show, and is definitely not to be missed!” said UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Manager Lee Dombroski. The premise is simple: a period adventure story featuring Pulitzer-winning reporter Molly Sloan, her intrepid assistant Timmy Mendez, and a mysterious librarian named Ben Wilcott as they face the most serious threat Earth has ever known: an impending invasion of sludge monsters from the planet Zygon.

“The telling is what makes the experience of The Intergalactic Nemesis so incredibly unique,” Dombroski explained. “While three actors, one Foley artist, and one keyboardist perform all the voices, sound effects and music, more than 1,000 hand-drawn, full color, hi-res, blow-your-mind comic book images blast from the screen, all performed live. Inspired by Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars, and the pulp serials of the 1930s, The Intergalactic Nemesis is a spectacle unlike any other and it’s for the kid in everyone.”

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $20 General, $15 Discount and $10 UH Hilo / HawCC students and children, up to age 17, and available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 974-7310 or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

January

7  First day of instruction

11  Last day to register or add a class

The Intergalactic Nemesis, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

18  Last day to completely withdraw from classes without owing tuition

Last day to Add with permission only

21  Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Keigwin + Company, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

25  Last day to exercise Credit/No Credit

Last day to submit Auditors Form

Final deadline to apply for Spring 2013 graduation

28  Last day to drop a class online without “W”

Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition for complete withdrawals

No refunds will be issued after this date

Ka Lono Hanakahi is published by the Office of University Relations during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome with priority given to current faculty and staff members. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director Media Relations, (808) 974-7642 or alyson@hawaii.edu.