To: Don Straney, Chancellor  
Matthew Platz, VCAA

From: Jean Ippolito, Faculty Congress Chair

Date: January 19, 2016

Subject: Faculty Congress motion in support of re-naming the “Old Gym.”

At the January 18, 2016, Faculty Congress meeting, a motion was unanimously passed that endorsed the request put forth by Jackie Pualani Johnson of the Performing Arts Department and the CAS Senate Executive Committee, to re-name the newly renovated old gym building “Manu 'O'o, The Earnest T. Morgan Hālau.

The complete motion is attached to this memo.

Faculty Congress voted in favor of the motion: 22 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SENATE MOTION

Naming Manu ‘Ō’ō, The Earnest T. Morgan Hālau, the Old Gym, in honor of Earnest Theophilus Morgan
November 24, 2015

Whereas Earnest Theophilus Morgan, born in Waipahu, O‘ahu, in 1947, died 1992, in Hilo, Hawai‘i, was one of the premier dancers and dance teachers in Hawai‘i and the continental United States;

Whereas he was a graduate of Northwestern University and worked professionally as a dancer with the Gus Giordano Company of Chicago, wherein his work was recognized with an Emmy award; and the Paul Taylor international touring company; and in France, the Theatre Du Silence, founded and directed by Jacques Garnier and Le Cercle, founded and directed by Sheela Raj.

Whereas he established the dance program at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in 1974, and his classes were taught in the “Old Gym” building, leading to providing a foundation for his colleagues and students to continue his efforts to create a thriving dance community on Hawai‘i Island;

Whereas he directed the Honolulu Ballet and started the first modern dance company in the state called Dance O Hawai‘i that fused ethnic roots into contemporary dance; and formed the Big Island Dance Council; and coordinated summer dance retreats in the Volcano for local, national, and international performers;

Whereas he conducted workshops and directed performances for thousands of Hawai‘i school-aged children statewide in the Department of Education; and co-founded his dream of a retreat center focused on nature, culture, and wellness, Kalani Honua in Puna;

Whereas he believed that dance was an expression of mana, the life energy that flows through all things;

Whereas the UHH Performing Arts Department and leaders in the Hawai‘i Island dance community wish to honor his memory through the naming of the renovated Old Gym, bestowing the title of Manu ‘Ō’ō, The Earnest T. Morgan Hālau,

Therefore be it resolved:

The CAS Senate endorses naming the newly renovated Old Gym in honor of Earnest T. Morgan and requests that the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Administration strongly endorse and forward this recommendation to the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents for action.