UH Hilo: Fueling our Island’s Economy

Chancellor Donald O. Straney
April 7, 2011
Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce

- 50% increase in 12 yrs
- 70% in-state, 23% Native Hawaiian, X% international
- 2010-11 Freshman: 50% Hawaii Island, 25% O‘ahu, 25% out-of-state

4,000 Students and Growing
Future Growth: 3-5% a Year

Priorities
- Increase retention
- Increase transfers
- Increase freshmen
  - in-state
  - out-of-state
  - international

Comparative Advantage
- Small classes.
- Close connection with faculty who are active scholars.
- Applied learning experiences.
Comparative Advantage: Excellent Faculty

- High quality faculty active in their fields
- National and international reputations
- Committed to teaching and research

Comparative Advantage: Location

- Environmental and Marine Science
- Astronomy and Volcanoes
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Indigenous Language
- Rural Development and Health
The Arts: Enriching the Community

Impact on the Island’s Economy

- UH Hilo contributes $240 million to economic activity in the state
- 610 jobs & 3,900 indirect jobs
- UH Hilo’s University Park of Science & Technology:
  - $900 million and 400 jobs
Science and Tech Park

- 425 acres; #5 in state
- Astronomy HQs and 2 USDA Pacific basin research centers
- Space research center under discussion

New Construction

- Science and Technology Building
- Student Services
- College of Hawaiian Language
- Campus Book Store
- College of Pharmacy
### Student Housing

- **Hale Kanilehua**
- **Financially Leveraged Project**
UHH seeks $36M for housing

University says lack of beds for students is impediment to growth

By COULL M. STEWART
Voice-Herald staff writer

The University of Hawaii at Hilo has asked the state Legislature for $36 million to build more on-campus housing for students, but the state's budget crunch may mean that UHH will have to defer the projects.

Enrollment at the university has skyrocketed in the last two decades, creating a student housing shortage. In the last five years alone, enrollment has grown by 17 percent. Meanwhile, no on-campus housing has been added since 1989.

Current UHH enrollment stands at 4,900 students, with only 600 beds available for on-campus living.

That shortage is the university's No. 1 impediment to future growth and development, Chancellor Donald O. Straney said last week.

"Our immediate goal is to have beds for every freshman to stay on campus," he said. "Eventually, we'd like to have 50 percent of our students on campus."

Currently, student demand for housing exceeds the university's capacity by at least 1,200 beds, according to the Department of University Relations. That unmet demand is estimated to result in approximately 500 students admitted each fall who choose not to enroll when they discover that they cannot obtain student housing.

Administrators have attempted to address the housing concerns by forging agreements with four separate off-campus apartment and hostel operators. However, a tight housing market within the community has only added to students' difficulties finding off-campus living.
### Challenges and Strategies

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<th>CHALLENGES</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<td>• Under-resourced programs</td>
<td>• Protect comparative advantage</td>
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<td>• UH Hilo: 22% reduction in base</td>
<td>• Diversify revenue streams</td>
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<td>• Limited on-campus housing</td>
<td>• Build capacity for higher enrollment</td>
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#### Example:

**Degrees Throughout the Island**

- 2+2 model with Hawai‘i Community College to create degree ladder
- NHERC in Honoka‘a
- West Hawai‘i BBA
- Create presence in Puna
- Increase on-line degree programs
**New Programs This Year**

- **Rural Health**
  - Doctor in Nursing Practice
  - Pharmacy degrees:
    - BA in Pharmacy Studies
    - MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology
    - PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences

**New Programs Under Discussion**

- Engineering
- Data Analytics
- Conservation Biology PhD
- Agriculture and Entrepreneurship
- Professional Science Master’s
Program Priorities

- Have an impact on the island
- Build workforce for the island and the state
- Stimulate careers on-island
- Develop synergies between sectors

Example: Build the Research Industry
Example: Research Equipment on Campus

- 2 NMR spectrometers
- Flow cytometers
- Infrared Imager
- Confocal microscope
- Mass spectrometer
- Marine Science research vessels

Technology & Innovation Sector on Hawai‘i Island:

- Driven by federal and university employment
- 2% of all jobs on Hawai‘i Island
- 2007: Roughly 1,681 jobs in private-sector, 215 public-sector
- Private technology sector directly contributed $97.8 million to economy, or 2.7% of the island’s total earnings
- 2006: Average tech worker in private-sector on our island made $51,585 annually, almost 34% more than the average worker

Impact of Technology Transfer
UH Hilo and Hawai‘i CC: Improving the Quality of Life on Hawai‘i Island