UH Hilo: Helping to Build the Future of Hawai‘i Island

Chancellor Donald O. Straney
February 8, 2011
Rotary Club of South Hilo

Excellent Faculty: Teaching & Scholarship

- High quality faculty active in their fields
- National and international reputations
- Committed to teaching and research
• Ron Amundson  
  - Ethical impact of Human Genome Project

• Elizabeth Stacy  
  - Biology of ‘ohi’a

• Karla McDermid  
  - Nutritional and medicinal uses of sea weeds

• Bill Mautz  
  - Impact of pollutants on amphibians

• Vladi Skorikov  
  - Mental health issues of adolescents

• Andre Bachman  
  - New anti-cancer drugs

Excellent Faculty

Growing Enrollment: 4,000 Students

• 50% increase in 12 yrs
• 70% in-state, 23% Native Hawaiian
• Freshman: 25% O‘ahu, 25% International
• Growth trajectory: 3-5% a year
Initial Strategic Goals

- Graduate students faster
- Deliver programs across the island
- Enhance work life on campus

Comparative Advantage

- Small classes.
- Close connection with faculty who are active scholars.
- Integrate teaching and scholarship.
- Practical experiences; a practical university.
Best place in the world to study

- Environmental and Marine Science
- Astronomy and Volcanoes
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Indigenous and Hawaiian Language
- Rural Health Delivery

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

Impact on the island’s economy
Building Opportunity

- University Science & Technology Park:
  - 425 acres; #5 in state
  - Astronomy HQs and 2 USDA Pacific basin research centers
  - Space research center under discussion

- Hawai‘i Innovation Center

Moving Forward

- Growing beyond 4,000 students.
- Liberal arts, professional & graduate programs.
- Focused on:
  - Student learning
  - Small classes
  - Personal attention of PhD faculty who are active scholars
  - Faculty-student collaboration on research & service projects.
CHALLENGES
- Under-resourced programs
- UH Hilo: 22% reduction in base
- Limited on-campus housing

STRATEGIES
- Protect comparative advantage
- Diversify revenue streams
- Build capacity for higher enrollment

Moving Forward

Extramural Funding: Expand Research & Capacity
New Initiatives

- Center for Rural Health
- Planning underway for Doctor in Nursing Practice
- And three Pharmacy degrees:
  - BA in Pharmacy Studies
  - MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology
  - PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Science & Technology Building: Nearing Completion
New Student Services Building: Groundbreaking Last Month

College of Hawaiian Language: Groundbreaking February 12
College of Pharmacy:
Planning Phase

Mahalo & Aloha!