Strategic planning at UH Hilo: Pre-Planning is Underway

by Kathleen Baumgardner

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is preparing to develop a new strategic plan. Currently, pre-planning evidence is being collected through a listening tour and online survey questions. More than 40 listening tour sessions will be hosted in order to seek input about UH Hilo from faculty, staff, students and the broader community. The ultimate goal is not to develop a plan that sits on a shelf, but rather a plan that we put to work each day in order to achieve our aspirations.

What is a listening tour?

The listening tour consists of a series of meetings with various stakeholder groups from across and beyond campus. The sessions are organized around a series of questions rooted in Appreciative Inquiry, especially effective in engaging networks of people. This is a rich process because it intentionally engages people with varied perspectives, making the conversation robust, sparking fresh ideas and stimulating creativity and conversation. Appreciative Inquiry invites participants to create the future they want by building on the best of the past. In the process, problems are identified and participants consider how weaknesses might be overcome by strengths. When people begin to talk with one another, they co-construct the structures, strategies, and processes needed to move forward.

How might I participate in online surveys?

The listening tour will provide a large body of information. But some who wish to participate may be unable to attend a session, they may feel...
more comfortable participating in an online survey, or may have thoughts to share after participating in a session. For this reason, an online survey has been created to mirror the listening tour. This survey follows the listening tour questions, but also provides an opportunity for people to share other comments anonymously regarding UH Hilo or the listening tour in general. In addition, there is a Question of the Month posted on the Strategic Planning website. This is a quick way to provide critical input regularly. November and December questions remain open for response, in addition to the January question. At the end of each month, common threads or results are posted.

- November Question of the Month: What do you value most about UH Hilo?

- December Question of the Month: What “breakthrough achievement” would you either love to help make happen or love to see happen at UH Hilo?

- January Question of the Month: What do you feel are the most promising areas in which to expand collaborations between UH Hilo and the Hilo community?

Responses to these surveys from all UH Hilo stakeholders - faculty, staff, students, alumni, business partners, and community members - are most welcome.

What will happen in the coming months?

We can never predict the source of great ideas, but if we take the time to listen to the voices and perspectives of UH Hilo ‘ohana members, we may uncover new ideas, directions and synergies. A summary of each listening tour session is being posted on the UH Hilo Strategic Planning website.

Ultimately, these listening tour discussions and the evidence gathered through surveys will help create a foundation for an inclusive and living strategic planning document for our campus. During the strategic planning listening tour sessions, important high-point stories are also being uncovered. Follow up interviews have been helpful in developing texts so we might share these stories more widely.

Among the members of the UH Hilo ‘ohana, listeners of the tour outcomes will include our new UH Hilo Chancellor and a Strategic Planning Committee that will be formed once the permanent Chancellor is in place. This Committee will consider and review the notes of all meetings as well as a summary report that will help inform the development of the next UH Hilo Strategic Plan. Ultimately, the strategic plan developed will be implemented, monitored and revised on an ongoing basis so it will be effective and guide us through the years to come.

Who might I contact for further information?

You are welcome to contact me with questions and comments:

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I began work as UH Hilo’s Strategic Planning Project Manager in October 2018. My husband and I moved to the island in August 2017 from Colorado. While there, we co-founded and operated a nonprofit organization, a donation-only farm-to-fork restaurant that has served nearly 90,000 meals. In addition to nonprofit strategic planning, I served as the Director of Strategic Communications for Colorado State University’s College of Engineering. I worked on two strategic plans at Colorado State and another while serving as the Director of Communications at Knox College in Illinois. Outside of work, I enjoy photography, snorkeling, hiking, and listening to the ocean each evening.

Many thanks to all who have participated in strategic planning activities thus far. I have enjoyed listening, and I look forward to working with all members of the UH Hilo community in the coming months.

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) 932-7669 or alyson@hawaii.edu.
The drone track trains students for growing career opportunities in agriculture, natural resource management, search and rescue, security services, and expected air transport services.

UH Hilo launched its long-planned data science program this past fall by offering a certificate in the fast-growing field. The program is filling a need in the state because nearly every branch of science collects massive amounts of data, but there are not a lot of trained people able to analyze that data and make conclusions. For example, here on our island, there is a great need in conservation efforts, water resource management, and climate change research.

Partnerships

Partnerships are key to conducting effective scientific inquiry into 21st century challenges. Here is an example in the field of conservation biology, specifically research to save the endangered ‘alalā (Hawaiian crow) from extinction.

In collaboration with a Silicon Valley company that provides sophisticated genomic analysis systems, geneticists at UH Hilo and San Diego Zoo Global have fully sequenced the genome of the endangered ‘alalā. Once reduced to a population of about 20 birds, the sequencing of the species’ genome will be important to track any genetic challenges that may occur due to the reduced genetic diversity now seen in the species. This is an extremely important contribution to conservation genetics. The genome assembly is now publicly available. Currently, the UH Hilo geneticists are collaborating with researchers from California, New Zealand, and Australia to do a genetics study addressing the hatching failure of the ‘alalā and the endangered kākāpō of New Zealand.

Another research team, this one from the UH Hilo Bioacoustics Lab, recently received a $50,000 award from the Disney Conservation Fund to work in collaboration with the ‘Alalā Project, a partnership between the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, San Diego Zoo Global, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to find out if captively-reared ‘alalā are developing new vocalizations as they adapt to new situations encountered in the wild. This information will greatly assist in the conservation efforts of ‘alalā.

Knowledge and technology transfer

UH Hilo’s response to the recent lava flow in Puna is a good example of the University sharing its expert knowledge and technology resources for the benefit of our local communities.

As the lava threatened vulnerable communities, Hawai‘i County Civil Defense reached out to UH Hilo’s experts in drone technology to do high-resolution mapping of the flow areas. Government responders needed to pinpoint exact locations of the advancing lava, and the UH Hilo drone team was able to capture overhead shots and then quickly relay that information to Civil Defense.

Another research team from UH Hilo conducted real-time chemistry analysis of lava samples that helped determine how the lava would behave and how fast it would move. The data provided critical information to the U.S. Geological Survey scientists responding to the natural disaster. The samples were collected daily from the flows, bagged and dated, and brought back to the Hilo campus for analysis. It was the first time scientists looked at the chemistry at the same time the volcano was erupting.

Yet another research team provided precise leveling of the ground around the Puna power plant to detect whether the surface was rising due to the flow of magma beneath the surface. The monitoring would alert officials if the facility was about to be compromised.

The longer-term scientific value of the data collected by these research teams helps government officials better understand these types of eruptions so that responders can do an even better job of predicting in the future.

Thinking ahead

We at UH Hilo take seriously our kuleana to help provide the workforce for new growth sectors in our economy, the scientific experts to help conserve the precious environment of our island and state, and the technological resources necessary for our communities to meet unexpected crises. By working together with our local communities and in collaboration with myriad partners, we help improve the quality of life for everyone.

Wishing you a happy and productive 2019!
Hats off to...

Kurt Dela Cruz, Senior Advisor, Advising Center, presented “Brokering the Next: Utilizing the Four Fishes to Facilitate New Pathways in Student Affairs” at the Western Regional Conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), held in Sacramento, CA.


Shugeng Cao, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-authored “Two new tricycloalternarenes from Hawaiian endophytic fungus Didymella sp. FT433,” Tetrahedron Lett, 2018, 59(36), 3381-3383, and “FlABEL- 

Karen Pellegrin, Director, Continuing Education, Strategic Planning, and the Center for Rural Health Science, co-authored and presents “Acute Respiratory and Cardiovascular Outcomes Associated with Low Levels of Ambient Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) on the Island of Oahu” at the annual Hawai‘i International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-52), January 9-11, Wailea, Maui. She is also featured in this month’s Hawai‘i Journal of Medicine & Public Health for her study on rural disparities in U.S. mortality rates published in SSM-Population Health.

Dianqing Sun, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-authored “The Fatty Acid Synthesis Protein Enoyl-ACP Reductase II (FabK) is a Target for Narrow-Spectrum Antibacterials for Clostridium difficile Infection,” ACS Infectious Diseases.

Deborah Taira, Professor, Pharmacy Practice, co-authored the manuscript “Healthcare network analysis of diabetes patients and their physicians,” accepted for publication in the American Journal of Managed Care.

Charmaine Higa-McMillan, Professor, Psychology, is first author of “What therapy practices do providers value in youth behavioral health? A measure development study,” accepted for publication in Journal of Behavioral Health Services Research.
Derek Gripper Concert kicks-off new “E Kanikapila!” series

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo presents “The Derek Gripper Concert,” the first in the newly-established “E Kanikapila! The Rodney Wong Tribute Concert” series, Wednesday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center. The series, in memory of Rodney Wong, was established by Wong’s family and friends to honor his life’s work and passion: the love of music and music education. One concert or production will be chosen annually to be a part of the “E Kanikapila!” series.

Derek Gripper is a South African classical guitarist who embarked on a journey through different musical styles when he found classical guitar music too limiting. His explorations and studies found him learning diverse styles from India, Cape Town and West Africa, but he always applied what he discovered to the guitar.

Gripper’s concert explores the dialogue between the disparate styles that have informed his work to date: the West African Kora, Bach, South African jazz, Contemporary Classical and large scale improvisations. This diverse palate creates music that is intimate and explosive, improvised and composed, traditional and new.

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $20 General, $15 Discount and $10 UH Hilo/HawCC students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, pre-sale, and $25 General, $20 Discount and $15 UH Hilo/HawCC students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, at the door.

Tickets are available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 932-7490, Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
UH Hilo Briefs

January

7          First Day of Instruction

15         Last Day to Register or Add a Class
           Last Day to Withdraw from Classes without Owing Tuition

21         Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

25         Final Deadline to Apply for Spring 2019 Graduation
           Last Day to Exercise Credit/No Credit
           Last Day to Submit Auditors Form

30         Last Day to Drop a Class Online without “W”
           Last Day to Receive 50% Refund of Tuition for Complete Withdrawals

Derek Gripper Concert, the “E Kanikapila! The Rodney Wong Tribute Concert” series, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission