Student housing is UH Hilo’s top legislative priority

by Ken Hupp

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo will look to the state legislature for help in addressing the long-standing need for additional on-campus housing this legislative session. UH Hilo’s package for the 2011 session contains a mix of capital improvement and instructional requests, but the centerpiece is a proposal that University officials hope will produce the first on-campus housing units since 1989.

The University is seeking a combined $32 million in Revenue ($28.8 million) and General Obligation or GEO Bonds ($3.2 million) for the first phase of a student housing project. Phase I will provide planning, design, construction, finishing and equipment for approximately 400 additional beds in apartment- and suite-style residence halls.

“More than anything else, the shortage of on-campus housing is limiting our growth and development,” said Chancellor Donald Straney. “Its impact will only intensify and could become detrimental unless we create more housing.”

While UH Hilo’s enrollment has grown over 30% during the past five years, the University’s housing inventory has failed to keep pace. Each year the waiting list for student housing grows longer, and most recently exceeded 350.

The University has attempted to meet its housing needs through agreements with off-campus apartment owners and hotel operators. However, those options are rapidly...
Student Housing
Continued from page 1

running out as the Hilo community faces a housing shortage, which threatens to price students out of the market.

The University also hopes to create another 20-30 beds through establishment of up to three living, learning communities. A total of $4 million is being sought for design, construction and equipment for an addition to, renovation and upgrade of the existing Hale Kanilehua Residence Hall. The project will also include a classroom for 25-30 students, separate living accommodations for a scholar-in-residence and a fully functioning community kitchen.

But the biggest capital improvement being sought is some $60 million for construction and equipment for a complex to house the College of Pharmacy (CoP). Supporters note that the Pharmacy degree program could potentially become the largest graduate program on campus, with an anticipated annual enrollment of 90 students, providing permanent facilities are built. The new facilities are also critical to the College’s application for accreditation with the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

“Our academic vision is to create a College of Pharmacy that will be ranked among the top 20 nationally, and to earn that ranking through excellence in all of our endeavors,” said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. “The new building will allow us to meet our professional accreditation standards and reach the level of competitiveness that will generate pride among the citizens of Hawai’i.”

The facility will house CoP’s operations currently spread out over six different sites around Hilo in one centralized location. Plans call for classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices and other related spaces.

On the instructional side, the University will seek funding to scale up pilot programs which have produced successful outcomes in gateway courses like math and science. Money is also being sought to establish permanent degree programs in West Hawai’i as UH Hilo seeks to expand its educational outreach.

Conventional wisdom suggests that the success of these proposals will be determined by the state’s financial position, which appears to be gradually improving. But University Relations Director Gerald De Mello believes changes in the political landscape could also have an impact.

“We have a new Governor, who is supportive because of his background in higher education,” De Mello said. “But the Senate has a new president, while Russell Kokubun and Dwight Takamine have accepted positions in the new administration. We also have to assess what the impact of the lengthy negotiations to organize the House will be.”

De Mello said University officials are reaching out to lawmakers who have taken over key committees in an effort to forge working relationships. How effective they are may very well determine UH Hilo’s performance in the 2011 session.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
A sense of community permeates UH Hilo’s 16th annual Hoʻolauleʻa

by Michael Pankowski

Students at UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College will celebrate their collegiate relationships and invite one and all to join them at UH Hilo’s annual Hoʻolauleʻa, scheduled for Saturday, January 15 from 10 am to 10 pm next to the Performing Arts Center.

The student committee organizing this event began meeting months in advance to ensure that the day properly commemorates those bonds. The island reggae talents of Marti Dread will headline the event, and information, food, and craft booths will be on site to showcase the diversity of the local community. Student organizations will also be in attendance, and there will be inflatable bouncers, a petting zoo, and games for the keiki.

Senior Miki‘ala Akiona chairs this year’s committee with some behind-the-scenes experience from previous years’ productions. Having done this before has helped Akiona with some of the basics, but she admits that “there’s been a lot of changes this year so [there are] some challenges that we face.”

The original idea behind the UH Hilo Hoʻolauleʻa when it first started in 1996 was to express the feeling of gratitude that the University holds for the community. Kalani Kahalepauʻole, one of the founders of this tradition, used it to “mahalo the community specifically,” according to Akiona. Today, she sees it as a venue meant to pull all university interest groups together, as an opportunity to strengthen the connection between UH Hilo, the Hawai‘i Community College, and the community-at-large. Kenny Davis, a committee member, likes that “you have more interaction with the community instead of just passing by or focusing on the entertainment.”

Over the past three years, Akiona has participated in the UH Hilo Hoʻolauleʻa in some capacity or another. She continues to be enthusiastic about its importance and making sure it is a positive presentation of the University to the community. Bringing so many things together in harmony is never an easy task, but she keeps coming back. To Akiona, “it’s still exciting and it offers a lot of opportunities and options, [and] it’s a starting place for a lot of things in a festive, fun [atmosphere].”

(Editor’s note: Michael Pankowski is a student intern with the Office of Media Relations.)

UH Hilo Communicators!
here for you

A UH Hilo communicators group has been formed in response to the growing number of departments designating their own personnel for public information purposes. UH Hilo Communicators! meets monthly to network, share information about events taking place on campus, and to develop strategies to improve coordination of external messaging. Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Farrah-Marie Gomes, North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center; Maggie Morris, College of Pharmacy; Dori Yamada, College of Continuing Education and Community Service; and Walter Dudoit, University Relations. (second row) Jeff Harman, ‘Imiloa; Kelly Leong, Athletics; Ken Hupp, Media Relations; Heidi Veilleux, Performing Arts Center; Darcy Bevens, Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes; Carolina Lam, Global Education; and Michael Pankowski, Board of Media Broadcasting. Missing are Vinnie Recinto, ‘Imiloa, and Debi Brockman, Administrative Affairs. The group is convened by Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Media Relations. Anyone needing media relations assistance should contact any member of the group or call the Media Relations Office at x47642.
Hats off to...

Misaki Takabayashi, Associate Professor, Marine Science, was co-author of the paper, “Variation in Symbiodinium ITS2 sequence assemblages among coral colonies,” accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed *PLoS ONE*. Takabayashi collaborated with researchers at Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology and graduate students from New Zealand, Colombia, and Tanzania.

Robert Chi, Specialist, David Scott, Media Design & Production Specialist, and Phineas Kelly, Media & Production Specialist, had their research paper on “Comparison of Interactive and Collaborative Instructional Technologies and Delivery Systems” accepted for presentation by AACE, Global Learning and Technology, Asia Pacific, Melbourne, Australia, 2011.


Jeffrey Smith, Assistant Professor, History, was awarded a research grant from the Hawai’i Council for the Humanities to further his research in the roll of Hawai’i and Hawaiians in the American Civil War.


Adam Pack, Associate Professor, Psychology and Biology, and two of his undergraduate research assistants recently conducted a program on humpback whale ecology and research methods for students from Honoka’a High School at UH Hilo’s NHERC. Pack also worked with NHERC staff and completed the first community marine mammal evening lecture series at NHERC last month.

Bryan Kim, Professor, Psychology, has been elected vice president of the Asian American Psychological Association. His two-year term begins August 2011.

Ron Gordon, Professor, Communication, received a travel grant to attend the 96th annual convention of the National Communication Association in San Francisco, CA. Gordon served as a respondent to four papers by researchers from Western Michigan University on the topic “Peak Communication Experiences.” His response paper was titled, “Reflections on Peak Communication Experiences: The ‘Between’ and Beyond.”
Re-developing UH Hilo’s mission and vision

by Siân Millard, on behalf of the UH Hilo Strategic Planning Committee

Over the past few weeks we have been carefully considering the feedback provided by faculty, staff, students and community members through the preplanning survey consultation and listening tour (see www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/preplanning) and institutional level data to begin our initial discussions on UH Hilo’s mission and vision. What is clear from the preplanning feedback is that there is confusion over our University’s identity – Who are we? What is our purpose? Where are we headed? What are our key strengths and how do they make us distinctive from our peers? It is these types of questions that we’ve been thinking about and discussing in our recent meetings to help us draft some initial mission and vision statements.

UH Hilo’s current mission and vision statements (available at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/2002-2010/vision_mission.php) are each several paragraphs long. Our challenge from the Chancellor has been to move away from this more descriptive way of articulating a university’s mission and vision, to develop statements that are concise (1-2 sentences), reflect UH Hilo, and distinguish us within the UH System. This has been an interesting, thought-provoking and challenging task that we took up with enthusiasm.

Whilst we are taking the lead in drafting the initial draft statements, they are just that – initial and draft. What we want to do over the coming weeks is to ask you your thoughts on what we have come up with. We’ll be holding town-hall sessions for faculty, staff, students and community members in mid-January (details to be issued shortly), and there will also be an online consultation if you can’t make one of the sessions. We will then consider all feedback, make any necessary amendments to the statements, and circulate them back to the campus and community by the beginning of March.

Redevelopment of the mission and vision is the first of our key milestones. Following this we will then focus on identifying, informed by the preplanning feedback, the key goals or priorities for the campus. Around March, we’ll again ask you your thoughts and how you think we can meet the goals. We’re working toward the target of recommending a strategic plan to Chancellor Straney by the end of May 2011.

We thank you for your support and interest, and look forward to seeking your views on the draft mission and vision statements shortly. We are committed to making the planning process fair, transparent and evidence-based. To support that commitment you can follow our progress and discussions by accessing our meeting agendas, papers and minutes at www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/strategicplanningcommittee. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Siân Millard at uhhplan@hawaii.edu or x33297, or any member of the Committee.

(Editor’s note: Sian Millard is strategic planning coordinator.)

Fitness for Life begins spring session

UH Hilo’s College of Continuing Education and Community Service is currently registering participants for its spring Fitness for Life program.

Returning popular classes include paddling, hiking, Afro-Brazilian dance, Pilates, and Japanese Taiko drumming, Filipino Language and Culture course, wellness workshops, and a culinary foray into the world of cupcake making are new classes for the spring session.

Two professional development courses are also being offered: Accounting Assistant Certificate program and Executive Administrative Assistant.

To register or for more information, contact CCECS at x47664. Full class descriptions are also available online at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/ccecs/fitness/. Space is limited.
UH Hilo Alumni & Friends honors four, Class of 1971

The UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association will be honoring the achievements and contributions of UH Hilo alumni and community leaders at its 11th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet, to be held on Friday, February 25 in the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Room beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are $75 for the buffet dinner. The RSVP deadline is February 16.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni honorees include Judge Ronald Ibarra (Hilo College 1966-68), Mr. Gregg Taketa (1973-75) and Mr. Wayne Subica (1978). The Distinguished Service honoree is Mr. Russell Oda. This year’s event will also recognize the 40th anniversary of the UH Hilo Class of 1971 -- the first graduates to receive baccalaureate degrees from UH Hilo as it transitioned from a two-year institution to a four-year university.

“The Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards Banquet has become an integral part of the UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association’s efforts to raise scholarship funds for deserving UH Hilo students,” said Marketing & Alumni Director Yu Yok Pearring. “We will once again have a silent auction to raise scholarship funds.” To date the association has raised more than $30,000.

To purchase tickets, make a donation to the silent auction, or for more information, contact the UH Hilo Marketing and Alumni Office at x47501 or x47643.

New ‘Imiloa planetarium shows begin January 8

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai’i begins 2011 with two new planetarium shows starting Saturday, January 8. We Are Astronomers shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily, and the new keiki offering, Our Place in Space, shows at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

We Are Astronomers reveals the global collaboration, technology and dedication required to answer the unresolved questions of the Universe. It shows the technologies such as the Large Hadron Collider, the observatories of Chile and the Hubble Space Telescope at work and how they are used by teams around the world. We Are Astronomers, narrated by David Tennant, provides a visually stunning tour of contemporary astronomy using 360° Fulldome digital planetarium imagery produced by (National Space Center) NSC Creative with input from UK astronomers.

Our Place in Space helps audiences solve a crossword puzzle about the sky, learn how endangered animals explore the cause of day and night, the importance of the Sun, the beauty of the constellations, and the variety of objects that make up the Universe.

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center also offers its signature show, Maunakea: Between Earth and Sky, at 11 a.m. and Awesome Light: Big Mirrors on the Mountain at 2 p.m. daily. Admission ticket includes the Exhibit Hall and Planetarium show. ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai’i is open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.imiloahawaii.org or call 969-9700 (for recorded information) or 969-9703 with any questions.
Focus on UH Hilo opens spring semester on new night

Focus on UH Hilo opens its series of spring programs by moving to a new night. The show, which formerly aired on Wednesday evenings during the instructional year, will now be seen on Fridays from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

The first program airs on January 21st and features Dr. Jason Turner, associate professor of marine science. Turner will discuss various opportunities in marine science along with his plans for the Hawai‘i Cetacean Rehabilitation Facility he heads, located at the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center in Keaukaha.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni Office at x47501 or x47643.

Battlefield Band

Presented by the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center and the Hawaii Concert Society

The Battlefield Band are turning into a national treasure, and exemplify the ongoing nature of Scottish musical tradition. Not seen them yet? Shame on you!

The Edinburgh Evening News

Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 7:30 P.M.

Reserved Seating Only - Tickets

$25 General
$20 Discount
$10 UH Student/Child

For disability accommodation, contact Heidi Veilleux at 933-3208

UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Box Office Hours:
T-F, 9 am - 1 pm on school days. To order by phone call (808) 974-7310

Order online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu
Campus Events

January

3-7 Orientation, Advising and Registration

9 Last day to withdraw from classes without owing tuition & fees

10 FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

14 Last day to register or add a class

15 Student Services Center groundbreaking ceremony, 9 a.m., PAC front lawn

15-21 Late add with permission only

17 Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr.

21 Last day to completely withdraw from classes without owing tuition

Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

28 Last day to apply for spring 2011 graduation

29 Battlefield Band, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

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

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

31 Last day to submit approved fall 2011 curriculum documents to registrar