Proactive strategy keeping UH Hilo a step ahead of budget challenges

by Ken Hupp

In many ways, budgeting is like a chess match. With multiple moving parts combined with unexpected twists and turns, planning several moves ahead has become a necessity as the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo navigates its way through the current fiscal maze.

Actions taken by the legislature, along with pending decisions by Governor Neil Abercrombie and UH President M.R.C. Greenwood are expected to reduce UH Hilo’s FY2011 allocation of $28.3 million from the state general fund by at least $700,000. While the final arithmetic is unknown as of press time, the scenario is exactly what the University has prepared for.

“When the units and departments began working on their budgets last spring we told them to proceed on the assumption that this year’s budget would be less than we had anticipated,” explained Chancellor Don Straney. “Each was asked to produce a plan to provide the services needed with less money.”

That was especially true in academics where departments had to reduce course offerings to create a cost-effective fall schedule that still met the needs of students. That task began in the spring and continued throughout the summer as adjustments were made in response to student demands.

“That is the toughest thing an academic department ever has to do and they did an amazing job,” Straney said. “Our biggest challenge was to maintain high quality in what we offered and provide students the courses they need to get a first-class degree and I believe we have done that.”

Departments also produced the framework for a stream-lined spring schedule. But despite those savings, the reduction in state...

Chancellor’s Message

by Don Straney

One of the goals stated in our Draft Strategic Plan is to upgrade University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s technology infrastructure including computer laboratories and classrooms, wireless broadband across all areas of the campus, and new technologies to better support student learning, teaching effectiveness, and research.

I am pleased to report that over the summer we have been upgrading our wireless system resulting in an overall increase in coverage across the campus to 85%. This includes an increase to wireless coverage in Mookini Library from 40% at the end of last semester to now 100% coverage on all three floors.

Speeds of up to 50Mbps per second are capable for Library users; this means that students will now be able to download and play videos and multimedia at significantly increased speeds.

Improvements will continue to be made to the campuswide wireless broadband during the fall semester resulting in upgrades to 300 access points on campus: 62 in the Library, 42 in student housing, 40 in UCB, 19 in Kanaka’ole Hall (already completed), and the remainder will be used for upgrading access points on campus and expanding wireless broadband coverage in areas where it is not adequate.

We did experience a few teething problems with the campus wireless system, including those in student housing, during the week of registration and first week of classes due to higher than expected usage. The issue is now resolved.
funding combined with higher operating costs still leaves an estimated shortfall of $1.25 million. To balance the budget all units and departments under the three vice chancellors and the Chancellor’s Office will undergo another round of reductions ranging from $223,000-$448,000.

While reducing expenses helps, it only goes so far. Meeting the long-term challenge will also require more revenue. Due to the reductions in state funding, tuition is now the University’s largest source of income. The System’s proposed five-year tuition schedule before the Board of Regents will raise tuition by $10 per credit hour or $120 per semester for full-time resident students next year to address the rising costs.

“We have some significant new expenses that you don’t often think about,” Straney said. “The new Sciences and Technology Building is a great place to take classes, but we still have to pay for utilities and janitors to maintain the building. The same thing goes for the new Student Services Building and Bookstore when they come on line, which are all expenses we didn’t previously have.”

Aside from the System’s tuition plan, there are steps the University can take directly to generate more tuition-based revenue. The recent summer session attracted nearly 1,000 students and a percentage of those revenues will be directed back to participating departments for the first time. Straney is already thinking about how to schedule and market next summer to attract even more students.

“I think the results of this year’s summer session validated the decision to lower tuition to bring it in line with the regular academic year,” Straney said. “And it appears that view is shared by the fact that the System’s tuition proposal retains summer session at the 2011 rate.”

Meanwhile, the University is making a concerted effort to recruit more transfer students, especially from Hawai‘i Community College, improve academic advising and provide a variety of support services to help existing students stay in college and complete their degrees. This would bring in more tuition and fill open seats in upper-level classes that are already offered without necessarily increasing costs. The Enrollment Management Implementation Team, whose purpose is to develop, implement and evaluate effective educational practices and policies that help UH Hilo meet its student recruitment, retention and graduation goals are also examining strategies to help sustain enrollment growth until the first phase of new housing units come on line in 2013.

Another potential growth area is grant funding, which now nearly equals the amount of funding received from the state. Research grants this year total approximately $21.6 million, which is the third highest total over the past decade behind last year’s $33.6 million. So even if the reductions in state funding become the new norm, and the University has to find new ways to do more with less, Straney remains optimistic about the future.

“UH Hilo has been meeting the economic challenges it faces and will continue to be an extraordinary place for students to come to for an education grounded in the Hawai‘ian experience that has practical applications for their life’s work,” Straney said. “And it’s the quality of our faculty that is going to allow us to do that however strained we might be in terms of resources.”

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‘Imiloa’s Wayfinding/Navigation Festival honors Eddie Aikau

“Spirit of the Wayfinder” celebrates cultural practitioners as wayfinders, stewards of heritage and tradition, navigators of their community, and honors a Hawaiian icon on October 8 & 9 at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center’s 4th Annual Hilo Wayfinding & Navigation Festival.

The event opens at 10 a.m. on October 8 with “Na Lae’ula,” Stewards of Culture, which celebrates native Hawaiian arts and its ability to inspire, transform, and perpetuate a culture. Traditional Makahiki games and the Hawai‘i Island debut of the Hawaiian music band, Hi’ikua, will also be featured. In the afternoon and evening, telescopes will be set up for the International Observe the Moon Night. The day’s event closes with a traditional Pacific storytelling session under the light of the moon.

On October 9, “He Kupu’eu,” A Hawaiian Hero, honors the spirit, life, and legacy of Eddie Aikau through a video documentary shown in the Moanahoku Hall beginning at noon.

“Both days will feature daily hands-on activities that include wayfinding and navigation skills, a planetarium show, canoe and cultural arts exhibits, live demonstrations, documentaries, and speaker presentations,” said Jeff Harman, ‘Imiloa’s director of marketing. “There will also be prize giveaways, including a grand prize of a stand up paddleboard.”

The Exhibit Hall will be open free-of-charge on October 8 only. All regular planetarium shows will continue to be charged at the regular admission price.

For the full schedule of events, visit www.imiloahawaii.org or call 969-9703.
We also are upgrading key physical technology infrastructure. Later this semester in the Library, a newly designed student production and presentation room will be available on the third floor. This room will include a 9-foot screen, 4000 lumen HD projector, dual mounted LED monitors, and a Polycom 7500HD telepresence system. This facility will allow students to develop necessary job skills by assisting them in creating, practicing, and presenting class presentations.

Currently in process at the Library are technology enhancements to five student group study rooms. The Library classroom also is being upgraded with two fixed 70-inch monitors and a Polycom 7500HD telepresence System. This will allow Library faculty to facilitate student learning with students from other UH campuses and campuses throughout the world.

Elsewhere on campus, we’ve upgraded two education classrooms with Smart technology and Podcasting systems so students can attend courses remotely. Two classrooms in Athletics used by Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences were upgraded to multimedia smart classrooms. By the end of the fall semester, five Marine Science classes will be upgraded to multimedia smart classrooms. All classrooms in UCB, Kanaka‘ole Hall, Sciences and Technology, Athletics, and Marine Science buildings will eventually be equipped with the following standard equipment:

- A multimedia teaching console
- A computer with a screen (computer 1)
- A projector control switch (to change projection source)
- A microscopic imaging capable document camera
- A laptop VGA and audio connections (computer 2)
- A DVD/VHS player (video source)
- An audio amplifier with speakers (MP3 input)
- A 3D ready projector mounted on the ceiling
- A wired or wireless microphone
- A clicker base for audience response
- Microsoft office and video software with captioning

All funds to support the technology upgrades and improvements came from a grant of approximately $500,000, and all the work is being done in-house by staff in the Office of Campus Technology and tech staff in the Library. We will continue with improvements to our information technology systems in what we see as a continuous process to ensure that our students, faculty and staff have the technical resources they require to succeed.

I would be interested in your comments on either the wireless system, infrastructure upgrades or the Draft Strategic Plan as whole and would encourage you to write to uhplan@hawaii.edu with any feedback or suggestions you may have.

For more news and information from the Office of the Chancellor, please visit my blog: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/blog/chancellor/.
Hats off to...

Alohalani Housman, Professor, Hawaiian Studies, co-presented research regarding the “‘Olelo Ola Oral Language Proficiency Project” at the World Indigenous People’s Conference on Education in Cuzco, Peru in August.


Keiki Kawai‘ae’a, Assistant Professor, Hawaiian Studies, has been selected as 2011 Educator of the Year for the National Indian Education Association. Additionally, she presented on three topics at the World Indigenous People’s Conference on Education in Cuzco, Peru in August.

Dianqing Sun, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded a three-year grant of $406,257 from the National Institutes of Health for his research on “Development of Piperidinols and Engelhardiones as novel Antituberculosis Agents.” This Academic Research Enhancement Award grant is supported from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Mahavir Chougule, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a $35,000 grant from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation for “Targeted Nanocarriers of siRNA for the Treatment of Asthma.” He also co-wrote “Antitumor activity of noscapine in combination with Doxorubicin in triple negative breast cancer,” published in PLoS One.

Deborah Juarez, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, co-wrote “Adherence with Lipid-Lowering, Antihypertensive, and Diabetes Medications,” published in American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits, and “Heart Failure Patients Receiving ACEIs/ARBs Were Less Likely to be Hospitalized or to use Emergency Care in the Following Year,” published in Journal for Health Care Quality.

Jerry Calton, Professor, Management, made two presentations at the annual meeting of the International Association for Business & Society in Bath, UK in June: “Building Partnerships to Create Value at the Base of the Pyramid,” a paper he co-authored on innovative approaches to addressing global poverty, and “Hot Topic: Teaching Sustainability and Global Warming in a Management Class,” a workshop he co-facilitated.


Karla Hayashi, Writing Tutorial Coordinator, presented “Alignment to Assessment: Closing the Loop?” at the Nebraska State Education Association-Higher Education Academy’s third biennial conference, “Something Happening Here—Change and Consequence in Higher Education,” Lincoln, NE, in June. She was also invited to participate in the preparation of an expository writing course training video for the Hawai‘i Department of Education where she delivered a mock argumentation lesson filmed on the UH Hilo campus. The video will be available to all DOE secondary teachers statewide who will teach the new expository writing course.
Michael Marshall, Professor, Art, received grant funding through the Laila Twigg-Smith Art Fund of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation to present Carlos Villa Artist-in-Residence, October 10-14, and which will support campus and community diversity initiatives and include an exhibition, “Hala-Halo: Bay Area Artists of the Philippine Diaspora – a mix of mature and emerging talents of the San Francisco Bay Area,” UH Hilo Art Department Gallery, through November.

Patricia Jusczak, Clinical Education Coordinator, Pharmacy Practice, was granted Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Faculty Trainer Certification after successfully completing the American Pharmacists Association training program.

Eugene Konorev, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented research on “Antiangiogenic effect of doxorubicin on human cardiac microvascular endothelial cells does not result from the reduced vascular endothelial factor production” at the American Heart Association Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2011 Scientific Sessions in July, New Orleans, LA.

Ken Morris, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was co-author of an editorial on “A-priori Performance Predictions in the Pharmaceutical Sciences,” which appeared in a special issue of the International Journal of Pharmaceutics. He and other UH Hilo faculty also wrote “Anisotropic Crystal Deformation Measurements Determined using Powder X-Ray Diffraction and a new in situ Compression Stage” that also appeared in that issue.

To honor American Pharmacist Month, the College of Pharmacy presents its third annual Health Fair from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, October 16 at the UH Hilo Campus Center. Students and faculty will conduct activities that promote healthy living, such as a “brown bag” medication check, as well as blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings.

Later that day, 92 pharmacy students from the Class of 2015 will recite the Oath of a Pharmacist at the College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. The ceremony is a rite of passage for students entering their first year in the professional program to affirm their commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring.

Both events are free and open to the public.
Enrollment at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo reached a new high for Fall 2011. UH Hilo’s preliminary enrollment figures show that it grew by 64 students or 1.6% to 4,149 compared to 4,085 a year ago.

“We attribute the increases to our dedicated and hardworking UH Hilo faculty and staff – especially our Admissions personnel,” said Chancellor Don Straney. “Despite having to streamline our fall course offerings, they were able to meet student demands and still increase enrollment.”

While no single ethnic group constitutes a majority at UH Hilo, the University continues to attract a sizeable number of students of native Hawaiian ancestry, which totals 932 or 22.4%. A couple of familiar trends are once again represented in this year’s enrollment with women comprising 59% of the overall student body, while men account for just over 40%. Meanwhile, 7 out of every 10 students come from Hawai‘i, while the other 30% come from out-of-state.

A closer look at the resident numbers reveals UH Hilo drew 2,012 students or 69.5% of its Hawai‘i total from the Big Island. Of that number, 944 or 46.9% are from Hilo, while 577 or 28.7% come from Puna and 154 or 7.7% are from the Hamakua District. The bulk of the Hilo students come from nearby Waiakea High School (338) and Hilo High (307), which account for a combined total of 645 students. Beyond the Big Island, 526 students come from O‘ahu, while 152 are from Maui.

The largest numbers of non-resident students come from the western United States. Students from California make up the largest number with 280 or 22.3%. Other significant counts include Washington (68), Colorado (45) and Alaska and Oregon (28). But the University also draws respectable numbers of students from states in the east like Pennsylvania (21) and Massachusetts (15).

UH Hilo’s international student population totals 321 spanning 36 countries and accounts for 7.7% of the overall student body. The largest numbers come from Federated States of Micronesia (61), Japan (55), Republic of South Korea (35) Marshall Islands (23) and Norway and Canada (13).

Going forward, enrollment management becomes even more important with tuition now the University’s largest source of revenue. Straney will be asking the Enrollment Management Implementation Team to examine how that new reality impacts recruitment strategy. UH System goals include an increase in transfer students, but efforts to improve retention are also expected to step up.

“A student who stays just one extra semester is someone we have already helped part of the way toward earning a degree,” Straney explained. “And transfer students have a special added value because they typically enroll in upper-division courses, which helps us fill those sections that are already being offered.”

Straney wants to focus attention on increasing the number of students transferring from Hawai‘i Community College, noting that those numbers have room to grow. In the long term, the biggest factor driving enrollment will be UH Hilo’s ability to meet its demand for student housing. The existing shortage should begin to ease in 2013 when Phase I of the University Village Project adds an estimated 250-300 beds to its inventory.

In the meantime, maximizing established growth areas and keeping more existing students is proving to be a sound strategy for sustaining UH Hilo’s enrollment climb.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

Have you signed up for the UH Hilo Report?

If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to get your news highlighted on the UH Hilo Report, a one-minute feature which can focus on virtually any non-commercial topic. Best of all, it is provided to the University at no charge. Each program airs for approximately two weeks on radio stations KPUA, KWXX and B97 and is also posted on the University’s website.

If you are interested in having your program, event or news featured on the UH Hilo Report, contact Ken Hupp at hupp@hawaii.edu.
Entertainment abounds at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center

by Lee Dombroski

The 2011-12 performance season at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center continues this month with Charmaine Clamor and band on October 14 at 7:30 p.m. Clamor is touted as America’s leading Filipina jazz and world vocalists. She made a point of connecting with her cultural heritage, born and raised in Subic-Zambales, Philippines, while producing her critically acclaimed second album, *Flippin’ Out*, by blending the soul and swing of American Jazz with traditional Filipino folk music, languages and instruments, creating a new hybrid genre called “jazzipino.”

This bright young recording artist and cultural trailblazer won’t rest until audiences feel her passion for *all* kinds of music. Clamor is proudly “green,” serving on the Sierra Club’s Water Committee and dedicating her song “Flow,” the first single and music video from *Something Good*, to water advocacy organizations.

This performance, the educational outreach performance for East Hawaii school children grades 4 and up, and a community outreach performance, are presented in celebration of Filipino American History Month in conjunction with the UH Hilo Filipino Advisory Committee.

In November, P.D. Eastman’s much-loved classic children’s book, *Go, Dog. Go!*, a chaotic carnival of music and physical comedy that celebrates the brilliant simplicity of all things, comes to life on stage in an exploration of movement, color and space. The dogs delve into life with gusto, creating a visual spectacle for the audience to feast upon. They snorkel. They howl at the moon. They ride a ferris wheel. They sing and dance and climb trees. This is a rollicking free-for-all of chicanine-ery. It is a big and little musical world of doggy fun. Like a pop-up book that comes to life – and never stops.

Adapted by Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory with music by Michael Koerner, the UH Hilo production of this musical comedy is directed by Justina Taft Mattos with music direction by Pedro Kaawaloa and choreography by Dori Yamada. The ensemble cast includes fan favorites Alsotn Alberado, Ka’iu’ani Lum-Ho, Dailee Morrone, Scott Wuscher and Zoi Nakamura, as well as new faces: Justin Chittmas, Lawrence Mano and Jaci Ebesugawa. The Performing Arts Center will host over 3,400 school children for daytime performance of this musical as an educational outreach activity.

Public performances are Fridays & Saturdays, November 4, 5, 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm and Sundays, November 7 & 13, at 2 pm.

Tickets for these events are available at the PAC Box Office Tues- Fri 9 am – 1 pm, by calling 974-7310 or online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

(Editor’s note: Lee Dombroski is manager, PAC).
Mark Yamanaka headlines Vulcan Baseball fundraiser

Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning recording artist Mark Yamanaka highlights a benefit for the Vulcan Baseball program on Sunday, October 30 in the Naniloa Volcanoes Resort’s Crown Room. A silent auction and no-host cocktails begins at 5:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner to follow.

Yamanaka’s debut album “Lei Pua Ke-niken” won Album of the Year at the 2011 Na Hoku Hanohano Awards. He was also awarded Male Vocalist of the Year and Most Promising Artist, and his “Kaleoonalani” won him the composer’s award for Song of the Year.

“We are honored that Mark will be performing for us,” said Baseball Head Coach Joey Estrella. “The evening is extremely important to Vulcan Baseball not only from the standpoint of introducing our team but from the point of raising critical dollars to augment our operating budget.”

Tickets are $75. Reservations for individuals or corporate tables of six or eight may be made by contacting Estrella at 974-7700 or josephe@hawaii.edu.

Campus Events

October

3 Priority deadline to apply for spring 2012 graduation

4 Three Years on Doreen’s Sofa with Lee Cataluna, 7 p.m., PAC

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

14 Last day to withdraw from courses with “W” Charmaine Clamor, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

16 College of Pharmacy Health Fair, 9 a.m., CC

16 College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony, 2 p.m., PAC

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

31 Last day to submit approved sum 2012 curriculum documents to Registrar