TO ALL UH MĀNOA STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY:

In recent discussions with many of you, a growing interest has emerged centered on a desire for a shared experience that intersects student, faculty and staff interests. In response to these aspirations, it is with great pleasure that I announce a new UH Mānoa initiative — the Mānoa Book Project. I encourage each of you to become actively involved in the planning and implementation of this project.

What is the Mānoa Book Project (MBP)? The MBP is a wonderful opportunity for the entire UH Mānoa community to dialogue about and explore a specific topic. The project begins with a reading of a common book that provides one perspective on a given theme. This discussion of the book is then followed by a semester-long or year-long series of events such as personal interaction and discussion with the book’s author and a series of other related activities. Examples of other related events at sister institutions across the nation include movies or other visual presentations, art exhibits, seminars on the economic and political perspectives of the topic, concerts, panels, sharing of personal stories, discussion on legal and moral implications, discussion on health-related issues, photo essays, poetry readings, wine and food tasting and much, much more.

Get Involved! I strongly encourage you to get involved in one or both of the following ways.

1. Join a MBP Committee. Become a member of the MBP Book Selection Team and/or the MBP Events Planning Team. We encourage everyone on campus — staff, students, and faculty — to become actively involved. Join us at a meeting on Monday, April 21 at 1:30 pm in Hawai‘i Hall 309 to learn more about the Mānoa Book Project.

2. Nominate a Book. Think of all the fiction or non-fiction books you have read that have engaged you fully. Or think of books you’ve been meaning to read. Attached for your use is a book nomination form that outlines book selection criteria. A listing of the most frequently selected books at other universities, colleges and/or communities throughout the nation may be found at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/manoabookproject. Nominate a book from that list or another book that appeals to your interest.

My sincerest appreciation to deans Dick Dubanoski and Joe O’Mealy, faculty members Becky Goodman and Lorna Hershinow, and the Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the contributions they have made to date on this or similar project.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to join together in a shared initiative. I encourage you to be involved. Please contact Associate Vice Chancellor Joanne Clark at jclark@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-6133 if you’d like to nominate a book, serve on an MBP team, or obtain more information about the project. I encourage you to call today!

Best Wishes,
Virginia S. Hinshaw
Chancellor