MEMORANDUM

TO: Tracie Nakagawa
    Administrative Officer for Research and Graduate Education

FROM: Kristeen Hanselman, Associate Executive Director

RE: University of Hawaii Graduate and Professional Education Reorganization

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly has reviewed the reorganization proposal as part of the consultation process. Of note, consultation requires UHPA and UH decision makers to be engaged early in the process to ensure there is full analysis and discussion with the employer. It should offer the opportunity for an alternative outcome to be considered. This did not happen with a reorganization that reflects a significant change in operations and philosophy regarding Graduate and Professional Education.

On face the proposal appears to be a simple transfer to consolidate undergraduate and graduate academic efforts that encourages greater planning and coordination under the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. However, the proposal avoids a detailed assessment on its merits and relationship to other UH Manoa functions. The reorganization is troubling as the alignment and operations between research functions and graduate programs are significantly intertwined. The general platitudes advanced in the rational for the reorganization are insufficient to establish the need for a change.

When a significant expansion of authority is granted to one Vice Chancellor this should generate Board of Regents deliberations to ensure the appropriate balance of decision making and operations between administrative departments at UH Manoa and the UH System. The proposed changes are not without consequences related to competition over limited resources and the values placed on research relative to student achievement. The reorganization lacks assurances there will be improved graduate education and resources that support and advance research for both students and faculty.

UHPA recommends that this reorganization proposal be taken to the Board of Regents as the proper authority to deliberate and make decisions regarding this important matter.