March 17, 2015

Robert Bley-Vroman, Ph.D.
Chancellor
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2500 Campus Road, Haw 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Chancellor Bley-Vroman:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly has reviewed the proposed reorganization of the UH Manoa Chancellor’s Office. UHPA has serious concerns regarding the proposal and opposes its implementation.

The proposal contends that the efficiencies and service improvements sought does not require an approval by the Board of Regents. Administrative Policy A3.101 would allow President Lassner to approve this proposal, having been delegated the authority to do so. UHPA notes that the proposal refers to Title IX and the necessity to meet Federal compliance requirements. This is not operationally defined and appears to be inconsistent with UH testimony at the 2015 Legislature. The testimony asserts Title IX is a System responsibility with all campuses having compliance functions. UHPA has not been privy to plans that address new or modified functions on all campuses. Receipt of one “reorganization” proposal does not meet the requirement for UH consultation with UHPA on a System’s issue.

UHPA is concerned that the creation of a separate Title IX/VAWA office at UH Manoa does not properly address the integrated coordination and resources that are necessary throughout the System. The Board of Regents should be the decision making body on implementation of Title IX/VAWA functions and distribution of resources necessary to meet the University’s obligation under Federal law. The UH Manoa submission is contingent of legislative funding. If this is the case, then are all Title IX/VAWA compliance activities subject to legislative appropriations? Even when the UH System has submitted a funding request to the legislature, not receiving the funds doesn’t toll the obligation to comply with Federal law.

UHPA believes that one reorganization proposal that fragments the implementation of a System responsibility is not appropriate under the current circumstances. UHPA also notes that there may be redundancy in the Chancellor’s office functions with that of the System’s
responsibilities. The government affairs and communication functions may be competing with the same set of responsibilities held by the UH System. Clarity in purpose and responsibility are needed between the two entities.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristeen Hanselman
Associate Executive Director

cc: Clifton Tanabe, Manoa Chancellor’s Office
    Tammy Kuniyoshi, Manoa HR
    Ann Sakuma, OVCAFO