Step 3: Second Level Unit Review and Ranking (Deans/Directors/Department Heads)
Using the program review results posted on the Prioritization Process webpage, please complete the below information and submit to ovcafo@hawaii.edu as a word doc or pdf file by March 15, 2009. Please ensure the e-mail subject heading reflects the Department/School/College name followed by “Second Level Review.” For example: SOEST – Second Level Review.

Department/School/College: College of Social Sciences – Second Level Review

The department would fall under which of the following Vice Chancellor’s offices?

- [X] Academic Affairs
- _____ Research and Graduate Education
- _____ Student Services
- _____ Administration, Finance, and Operations

Advisory Committee Members (list names and titles):

Velma Kameoka, Director, Social Science Research Institute (SSRI)
Judith Inazu, Associate Director, SSRI
Norman Okamura, Director, Social Informatics and Telecommunications Program/PEACESAT, SSRI
Carl Bonham, Director, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, SSRI
Warren Nishimoto, Director, Center for Oral History, SSRI
Nancy Marker, Educational Specialist, Center for Youth Research, SSRI
Administrative Unit Prioritization Summary
College of Social Sciences
Research Unit: Social Science Research Institute

This form is to be used to provide a summary of program priorities within an administrative unit (e.g. college). Please list each program identified in the Summary Matrix forms and Optional Guides in a priority category. This Prioritization Summary form should be forwarded, along with all self-review materials, to ovcafo@hawaii.edu for posting on the Prioritization Process webpage by March 15th for the next level of review to take place.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Maintain</th>
<th>Reorg.</th>
<th>Reduce</th>
<th>Phase Out</th>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Research</td>
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<td>Office for Evaluation</td>
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<td>Center for Youth Research</td>
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Brief Summary (no more than 2 pages)
Please include a brief narrative with an overview of the rationale for placement of the components on the Prioritization Summary form and any supportive or explanatory text or data that will assist higher levels of review in determining the relative priority of each program. You may wish to comment on the program self-reviews.

SSRI is a core unit of the College of Social Sciences and provides the foundation for the College’s research enterprise. SSRI’s mission is to facilitate sponsored research that addresses social, behavioral, economic, and environmental issues affecting Hawaii and the Asia Pacific region. SSRI’s six research programs are primarily supported by extramural funds. These research programs are integral to the College’s vision of academic and research excellence, contribute to UHM’s vision as a premier research institution that “benefits and involves the local community,” and is known in the community for advancing understanding of socio-cultural, economic, and environmental issues challenging the state. As such, SSRI’s programs directly contribute to UHM’s objective to develop a unique identity of the Manoa campus described in the WASC Institutional Proposal. SSRI also supports and facilitates the College’s research enterprise by administering all extramurally and intramurally-funded projects for Principal Investigators in the College’s 12 academic departments; this function is reviewed separately under the College’s Administration Rubrics.

SSRI’s research programs have excelled and contributed significantly to the College’s portfolio of extramural grants and contracts. In the past 5 years, SSRI’s programs collectively tripled their level of extramural awards,
increasing significantly from $3.1 million in FY2004 to $10.2 million in FY2008, accounting for 72% of extramural funds generated in the College. These programs also generated 72% of overhead revenues for the College which, in turn, is used to fund research support awards to the College’s faculty, as well as SSRI’s administrative support staff. Program priorities are based on program mission, achievements, and self-reviews highlighted below.

1. SSRI Interdisciplinary Research Program (IRP) consists of extramurally-funded projects not affiliated with SSRI’s five University-approved programs. IRP projects are central to the research mission of SSRI and strategic visions of the College and UHM. PIs, personnel, and operating costs are fully supported by extramural grants/contracts and, as such, this research program is revenue-generating for the College. Since 2005, IRP projects have focused on the following areas pertaining to the State of Hawaii: mental health services research and training; social science aspects of resource management and sustainability relating to hazards, climate, and environmental risks; human activity in relation to Hawaii’s reef ecosystem. Since 2005, IRP has generated a yearly average of $6.7 million of grants/contracts, comprising an average of 54% of the college’s extramural funds. IRP is expected to excel and maintain its level of productivity given indications and commitments in the federal Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

2. Office for Evaluation and Needs Assessment Services (OENAS) engages in applied research that meets program evaluation needs at UHM and public- and private-sector agencies in Hawaii. OENAS conducts research on social issues and educational effectiveness. Since its inception six years ago, OENAS has demonstrated a strong record of increased funding and is expected to continue this trajectory, based on local and national trends for accountability of public funds, greater reliance on metrics to demonstrate program effectiveness, mandatory evaluations of publicly-funded programs, and increasing pressure by accreditation agencies to assess student learning outcomes in educational institutions. There is a high demand for OENAS’ program evaluation expertise by government agencies, UH researchers, and non-profit agencies in the community. OENAS is funded entirely by extramural funds and can further expand its capacity by hiring additional researchers on general or extramural funds.

3. Social Informatics and Telecommunications Program (SITP)/Pan Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) focuses on social uses and applications of information and communication technology (ICT) in Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific Region. The program addresses numerous UH/UHM strategic imperatives such as providing direct benefits to the local community, expanding applied research and scholarship, developing modern research infrastructure and services, sharing new technologies with underserved public schools, enhancing human capital and knowledge infrastructure, strengthening public-private partnerships, and is a well-recognized conduit for new technologies and their application in Hawaii and the region. Program initiatives are well established and continue to expand as they address need and demands at state, national, and regional levels. SITP/PEACESAT directly supports UH system’s goal of developing a “model local, regional and global university” through serving as the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Initiative (API) that provides institutional linkages among academic institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. The API is an interdisciplinary program focused on environmental sustainability, natural disasters, ICT, and infrastructure (e.g., power, water, etc.) for community development. In the past 5 years, with only 1 G-funded FTE, the SITP generated over $20 million in contracts/grants. Due to tremendous growth and need for applied research in social informatics and telecommunications, including recently announced ARRA opportunities, this program is on a growth trajectory.

4. Center for Oral History (COH) was created by legislative mandate to document and maintain archives of Hawaii’s multicultural past using oral history methodology. COH was created to meet State needs to collect, preserve, and disseminate life history data from segments of the Hawaiian community excluded from historical records and who witnessed changes in Hawaiian history (e.g., sugar and pineapple plantation workers, longshoremen, cannery workers, etc.). COH’s mission would be enhanced by collaborations with units that may contribute to the Center’s mission. Formation of a collaborative partnership with the Center for
Biographical Research (CBR), for example, would be a feasible and efficient way to maximize resources, talents, and productivity. Unlike COH, however, CBR is not a BOR-approved unit. Center partnerships would strengthen UHM’s capacity to meet State mandate for historical research and archives and to provide a critical mass for future research, training, and extramural funding.

5. University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization’s (UHERO) mission is to inform public- and private-sector decision-making through research on the economies, environment, and people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region, and to increase public understanding of economic issues in Hawaii. Since 1997, UHERO has established itself as the premier source for economic analysis and forecasts in Hawaii by conducting research that benefits the local community, publicizing research locally and nationally, and expanding sponsored research on the Hawaii economy. UHERO will continue to grow through a combination of extramurally-funded projects, partnerships with other centers and ORUs at UHM, and a newly initiated fund-raising campaign. UHERO’s research is in very high demand in Hawaii and provides the following: (1) one-stop shop for current economic data and research findings on the state’s visitor industry, income, employment, and other crucial indicators of Hawaii’s economy; (2) forecasts and research cited weekly in local, national, and international press; (3) stronger public-private partnerships essential for the state’s economic development by sponsoring professional events such as the Annual Hawaii Economics Association and Western Economics Association conferences; (4) expanded sponsored research portfolio. UHERO faculty and fellows conduct innovative research on Hawaii’s economy and environment. Over the past five years, UHERO faculty and research fellows have served as PIs on 41 funded projects resulting in almost $1.8 million in funding and 13 graduate assistantships. Given the high demand for its research, UHERO will continue to grow its extramurally-funded research on topics ranging from sustainability science to disaster management planning to effective policies for reducing Hawaii’s green house gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

6. Center for Youth Research (CYR) conducts research on youth-related issues by integrating research and service to organizations and institutions targeting at-risk youth in Hawaii. CYR projects have related to juvenile justice, prevention of delinquency, substance abuse, and violence among youth in Hawaii, as well as youth policy and program development and evaluation. Prior to SSRI’s merger with the College, all but one position were swept by UH administration. Since that time, the remaining staff member, an Educational Specialist, has been assigned to SSRI’s youth-related extramural projects and provides technical assistance for data collection and program planning. Due to the loss of CYR’s research faculty positions, numerous research requests from health, human services, justice, and educational agencies cannot be met. Given pressing research needs targeting at-risk youth in Hawaii, CYR will be strengthened by brokering partnerships with key faculty researchers/departments focused on youth-related issues (e.g., Child-Clinical Psychology) and by engaging faculty expertise and leadership to develop CYR’s research capacity for competitive extramural funding.