

Oral Testimony from Mānoa Staff Senate Chair, Jaret KC Leong

Good morning Distinguished Regents, Chair Kudo, and President Lassner

Aloha...my name is Jaret Leong. I am the Mānoa Staff Senate Chair.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify.

On behalf of the Mānoa Staff Senate, which is the voice for all staff members, we strongly oppose Board Resolution 20-03.

Shared governance is a necessary part of the process of addressing this crisis, and is not, in our opinion, optional. We appreciate the acknowledgment by the resolution that the administration shall work with students, staff, and faculty. But we respectfully request that instead of SHALL, you change it to MUST. Administration MUST work with students, staff, and faculty. That is the only way to ensure we will be included in this process and that we will have a voice.

Last month we witnessed an outpouring of support in OPPOSITION. There is even more support the second time around and yet not a single testimony in favor. What will it take for you to listen to this university's most valuable assets?

I believe there would have been even more support in OPPOSITION, had this meeting not been right before the start of the semester.

Instead, your staff members have been working hard throughout this pandemic to ensure the survivability of this great University.

I just want to take a moment to thank those employees who have been working day-in and day-out. A lot of work is needed to successfully run an R1 research institution. Most of that work is behind the scenes and accomplished by your staff employees - who have been here this entire time.

- They are ensuring online learning is executed properly for the best user experience for our students.
- They are making sure we have a safe return to campus - with meticulous attention to safety protocols and procedures
- They are providing essential support to the students and faculty. And the list goes on and on.

Staff is what makes this University run. All the while having to do MORE with less. And most going above and beyond while enduring threats of furloughs, pay cuts, and RIFs. And now the uncertainty of a new University that is being formed without their input.

As the shared governance body that represents the staff working on the Mānoa campus, we appreciate this opportunity to share our concerns with you. We look forward to working with other campus governance organizations and the UH administration to ensure the future of this great university. I said it before and I will say it again: I truly believe that there will be better days ahead. But we need to work together as one ohana in order to realize that future.

I would like to thank the distinguished regents for the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Thank you and Aloha.

This is Jaret Leong the Chair of the Mānoa Staff Senate - the voice for all Mānoa staff members.