



SAVE UH/STOP UARC

Public Statement from the student, community, and faculty members of the Save UH/Stop UARC Coalition

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

We urge the faculty senators of the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa to vote against the proposed Navy-sponsored University Affiliated Research Center (UARC). Two resolutions will be considered by secret ballot at today's Senate meeting. The first resolution stands in unequivocal opposition to the Navy-UARC. The second supports the Navy-UARC only if six specific conditions are fully met. The conditions include unrestricted publication of research, no weapons research and a Senate review committee. These conditions, however, are irreconcilable and unenforceable given the current Navy-UARC contract. Thus, a vote for this "not opposed to UARC, if..." resolution is a vote for the UARC, for secrecy, and against UH.

The purpose of the University of Hawai'i is to insure the free exchange of ideas, uplift humanity, encourage sustainability and provide a Native Hawaiian place of learning. The faculty senate's vote against the UARC is an opportunity to put us back on this track as leaders in indigenous epistemologies, sustainable sciences and resource management. Regardless of any modifications to the contract, the Navy-UARC directly contradicts all efforts to perpetuate and nurture these efforts.

The plain text of the Navy-UARC contract prohibits the release of any research without prior approval from the Navy. The fine print of the contract imposes significant sanctions on those who refuse to comply with Navy orders for research, including a year in prison and a \$10,000 fine. In fact, these orders must be given priority over all on-going research because they are rated. The recently released security policy for UH-Manoa further confirms that this Navy-UARC proposal will dramatically alter the character of our open and public university by forcing us to erect locked doors and firewalls between the free exchange of ideas.

A chorus of voices has raised strong opposition to this proposed military intrusion into our open and public university. The Kualii Council of Native Hawaiian faculty publicly announced its opposition to the Navy-UARC in May 2005. The UH Student Caucus, representing all student governments throughout the UH system, also publicly voted to oppose the Navy-UARC at UH. The Associated Students of UH, representing the undergraduate students at UH-Manoa, together with 140 faculty members, former members of the Board of Regents, and hundreds of people from around the world have also publicly registered their opposition to the Navy-UARC at UH. We invite the faculty Senate to join us.

It is time for the secrecy and strife at UH to come to an end. Let trust and scholarship return to all facets of the University, so we can move forward with our mission in unity.

The Save UH/Stop UARC Coalition will gather for a press conference in the courtyard of the UH law school immediately following the faculty senate's secret-ballot vote (at approximately 5:00).

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