

Press Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 28 2005
10:30 am

Nonviolent protesters move on UH administration building, demand end to secret military research center

A group of nonviolent protesters have entered Bachman Hall, the University of Hawaii administration building, and have demanded an end to the University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) project, which would establish a secret military research facility to conduct Navy weapons development. The group, consisting of students, faculty, former administrators, and members of the UH Board of Regents, and concerned community members, have prepared a formal statement of legal, moral, health, cultural, and political reasons why UARC should be dropped. They have prepared a formal letter to the US Navy for Interim President David McClain to sign stating that UH is withdrawing its UARC application, because of the substantial public concern over increased secret military research. The nonviolent protesters have stated that they will not leave Bachman Hall until Mr. McClain publicly declares the end of UARC.

MORE Full text of student/faculty/community demands follows:

28 April 2005
University of Hawaii at Manoa
O'ahu, Hawai'i

To: The people of Hawai'i
Cc: University of Hawaii Interim President David McClain

Aloha 'āina kākou:

WE, THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY ARE THE 'ŌHANA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. The health and security of our public institution of higher learning, and the community it serves, is our chief concern. We are assembled here with a simple demand: that the highest authority of our University of Hawaii, Interim President David McClain, formally end the University Affiliated Research Center project, which threatens the soul of our university and endangers the health and welfare of our community with secret military weapons research. We remain steadfast in our opposition to the UARC project for the following reasons:

1. UARC violates the strategic plan, core values of UH and threatens its educational mission.
2. UARC implicates UH in war and militarism, and contributes to military impacts on the land and community.

3. UARC is bad business for UH; it puts constraints on other research possibilities, opportunity costs, restrictions on the type of research that would be demanded, and constraints on publishing.
4. UARC may be in violation of Federal Acquisition Regulations.
5. UARC is implicated and tainted by the Navy criminal investigation of mismanagement of classified research contracts. The military 'pork barrel,' coupled with secrecy and possibly dangerous technologies makes UH more susceptible to ethical lapses.
6. Recent audit reports have signalled the inability for the UH administration to adequately handle existing classified contracts.
7. UARC would be a major shift in direction for UH and the beginning of UH's demise – a mark on UH's reputation forever.
8. UARC is substantially different from existing military-funded, faculty driven research. UARC is research on demand for the Navy: "problem solving" vs. true research that expands human knowledge..
9. The process has been flawed, with secretive conversations and discussions for more than two years, and public involvement only after significant decisions have been made and provisional board approval has been given.

For these reasons, and for others which may exist in the consciences of the people, we resolve to remain in Bachman Hall until such time as Interim President David McClain declares an end to the UARC proposal. Such a declaration is essential to the survival and prosperity of our community's institution of higher learning. Until Mr McClain makes that declaration, we will occupy and demilitarize Bachman Hall.

Aloha 'Āina,

Save UH/Stop UARC Coalition