

Leeward Community College Faculty Senate

Legislative Relations Committee Report

December, 2020

Fourth Meeting held Dec. 1, 2020

Members

Erika Molyneux, Naiad Wong, Weirong Cai, Reina Ojiri

NEW Members

Faustino Dagdag

Didier Lenglare

Cara Chang

Visitors

Michael Oishi

Topics

- New Members Introductions and individual topics of interest
- Networking:
 - Spoke to aides for Chair & Co-Chairs of Senate Committee for Higher Education and Education
 - [Donna Mercado Kim](#)
 - [Michelle N. Kidani](#)
 - Information gleaned:
 - 2021 is the start of a new budget (these last for 2 years), so all old measures will be eliminated.
 - Worth looking into old measures as legislators often reintroduce items
 - Expect bills earmarked for specific and higher dollar amounts might not survive.
 - Chairs of Committees control which measures get hearings (so ask about priorities of chair!)
 - Legislature is expected to look at areas funding can be cut
 - Budget will be out 20 days before start of session (December 31)
 - Legislative calendar will be out near end of December/early January
 - Meeting format (virtual vs. in-person) not officially announced, but will be announced around time the calendar is published.
 - Public is invited to view live (used Olelo/YouTube in past - format for 2021 meetings to be announced later)
 - Greg Takayama is new chair of HRE in the House (this was a combined Lower-Higher Ed committee before but will be broken up again into separate committees for 2021)
 - Email is the best way to voice concerns of faculty: Include a brief narrative with 1 page attachment; make sure to reference the bill number!
 - More resources for committee
 - [Capitol Website](#) - Generally houses all information about the legislature
 - [Public Access Room](#) - Resources for understanding legislative process

- Representative Laura Theilen: Related concerns about financing lecturers and Arts and Humanities to her secretary
- No response from Lieutenant Governor Josh Greene, Re: Covid response & its impact on UHCCs
- UH Office of Government Relations & Capitol Websites (no new updates)
- Emailed Stephanie Kim, Director of [UH Government Relations](#) asking if she would be willing to do a presentation on the legislative process for our committee members (Thanks Kelsie Aguilera for the suggestion!) - Awaiting response.
- Continuing to Identify remaining legislative measures from 2020 on [Senate's Higher Education Committee website](#) that affect Leeward CC specifically (Not all the way through reading these. New items since last report are below (See [Notes](#) for all measures):
 - Large-scale items of interest:
 - [SB3066](#) Requires advanced notice & community approval for Land Use changes within UH & DLNR.
 - BOR-related:
 - [SCR150](#) Ensure proper advertisement of job vacancies, timely evaluation of applications/candidates, and prompt filing of vacancies.
 - Budget-related:
 - [HB2530 HD1](#) Removal of \$3mil cap UH System can spend from tuition & fees special UH Foundation Fund...(SB2560 was on last report.)
 - [SB3157](#) Requires audit for performance of UHCC system...
 - Financial & other supports for students:
 - [SB3068](#) & [SB3147](#) Provides funding for mental health services throughout UH System.
 - [SR51](#) Include CC students in 4-year student housing priorities ([SCR85](#) was on last report).
 - Affecting programs/degrees
 - [SR92](#) Single articulated Early Childhood training CC programs through UH 4 year institutions ([SB2300](#) & [SCR132](#) were on last report).
 - [SR32](#) & [SCR65](#) - Supports curriculum related to mechanics, repair, & maintenance of alternative fuel vehicles.
 - [SR74](#) Supports developing undergraduate teacher ed programs on neighbor islands. ([SCR112](#) was on last report.)
 - Efficiency
 - [SCR84](#) - task force to ID & create consistent method for streamlining UH and DOE job postings.
- Agreed to formulate a document to:
 - Express our solidarity as faculty
 - Ask for solidarity from legislators
 - Express list of general concerns as faculty

UHPA

[Update sent Monday, Nov. 30](#) states:

- No new policies have been finalized regarding 11-month faculty changing to 9-month, retirement incentives, or furloughs
- Assures these changes decisions **do not** happen automatically or without agreement.

- Negotiations are still in process, with UHPA often awaiting the response of the state negotiator and governor.
- Faculty participation in campus virtual meetings has been high
- COVID-19 has often been used as a means to “instill fear and uncertainty, instill divisiveness, and deliver incorrect information and innuendoes.”

Faculty Items of interest

- Government response to COVID-19 and how this impacts higher education
- Mental health support services availability for college students, faculty, and staff.
- Support of teachers as a key driving force within our economy.
- Support of lecturers as essential members of college faculty
- Taking a holistic, big picture approach, whereby impacts to all stakeholders as whole people are considered.
- Prioritizing meeting the college’s mission statement in decision making.
- Alignment local, state, and federal legislative goals and policies.
- Budgetary cuts and their impact on all stakeholders at the community college level.
- Creating a cohesive pathway between whereby local and federal legislators work in solidarity toward the same goals.
- Responding proactively to current events to promote positive outcomes for all college stakeholders.
- **Feel free to email other suggestions to erikaj@hawaii.edu**

Action steps for next meeting

1. Continue researching measures on legislature’s 2020 docket
2. Draft document described above for approval of Faculty Senate by first or second meeting of the year.
3. Contact Brian Schatz & Maizie Hirono in Washington D.C. in an effort to understand legislative priorities at the national level that may impact state policy and in an effort to align goals, process, and efforts)
4. Ask about priorities of Higher Education Committees Chairs.
5. Continue making contacts in legislature.
6. Note additional items of faculty concern to bring to legislators’ attention.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 5, 2-3pm