

**Leeward CC Faculty Senate
Legislative Relations Committee (FSLR Committee) Report AY 2018-2019**

Purpose

The Legislative Relations Committee is the eyes and ears of Leeward Community College at the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Honolulu City Council. It alerts the Faculty Senate when lawmakers consider policies that may impact Leeward CC's ability to fulfil its mission to deliver "...high-quality liberal arts and career and technical education...to all students with a special commitment to Native Hawaiians." As co-Chairs, we also survey and report on media accounts that fit this criterion.

Example 1:

In the 2017-2018 Session, SB2328 introduced by the Higher Education Committee Chair Senator Kahele. In its original form, the description for SB2328 stated:

"Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, requires all courses at all campuses within the University of Hawai'i system that require the use of instructional materials to exclusively use instructional materials from the open educational resources at the University of Hawai'i, under certain conditions."

SB 2328 was met with strong UH System-wide opposition due mostly to the authors' uninformed position on OER ; but also due to the perceived overreach by the Legislature. Proponents of OER also were concerned with the SB2328's top-down mandate and its negative impact on an otherwise vibrant and growing movement. SB 2328 died in its second reading.

Example 2:

The Committee's Nov. 14, 2018 report included a Honolulu City Council proposal to raise Bus Fare. Such a hike would negatively impact our students' options for accessing our campus.

Committee Membership (including Leadership)

Betty Ickes and Raymund Liongson, Co-chairs

Committee Meeting Dates AY 2018-2019

Oct. 17, 2018
Nov. 8, 2018
Jan. 3, 2019
Mar.12, 2019

Activities AY 2018-2019

Our Committee has not proposed any motions for AY 2018-2019. Our work has mostly involved scanning the web sites for the [Hawai'i Legislature](#) and the [City Council of Honolulu](#), calling appropriate lawmakers for clarification on bills, making decisions on what to report, summarizing the intention and status of a bill, and analyzing its impact as it pertains to Leeward CC's mission.

Before the start of the 2019 Legislative session, Donna Kim replaced Kai Kahele as the Senate Chair of the Higher Ed committee. Justin Woodson became new Chair of the House Education and Higher Ed Committee. The FSLR Committee set a goal to meet with leaders of the Senate and House Higher Education Committees to find out their primary agenda as it relates to higher education, particularly the Community Colleges. Communications with the lawmakers and their staff have been limited to telephone conversations with mostly staff. Sen. Donna Kim returned my call to tell me that all communications between the campuses and her office must go through the office of Kalbert Young, VP Finance and Budget, University of Hawai'i. Rep. Amy Perusso also returned my call and we spoke about the immunization bill and the abolishing of 121 positions at UH by the legislature.

Bills the Committee followed during the 2019 Session included:

- HB813 Hawai'i Promise Fund Plus [continues funding for CC Hawai'i Promise recipients when they transfer to YH system 4-yr campuses].
 - Status: Dead.
- SB1282 Hawai'i Promise Fund to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at UH Community College Campuses.
 - Status: Reduced amount Passed.
- SB919 UH Board of Regents [reduction of members from 15 to 9; reduction of service from 5-4 years]
 - Status: Referred to FIN.
- SB979 Creation of a State Lottery [part of its revenues to benefit DOE and the universities]
 - Status: Referred to GVO
- HB 377 HD1 Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.
 - Status: Referred to FIN.
- SB671 Post-secondary Education Students; Immunization Exemption Exempts students in post-secondary education programs from immunization requirements if they attend classes exclusively online or through distance learning.
 - Status: Referred to HLT.
- HINET
 - Status: dead
- Leeward CC Teacher Education Fy 2020, 2021 (\$418,720) non-UH Regent request.
 - Status: Passed.

- Reduction of 121 position at Manoa (\$12,974,614)
 - Status: Funding and positions restored.

NOTE: That this even happened shows the need for faculty to remain vigilant. It also demonstrates an overreach by the legislature and the UH administration's willingness to accommodate it. Subsequently, faculty have shown their displeasure with what they perceive as President Lassner's lack of support for UH Manoa faculty.
- Multi agency facility at Wahiawa (\$30,000,00). ...to convert an existing warehouse into a product development innovation center. The facilities purpose would be primarily geared to non-credit and small businesses in agriculture-related programs. Leeward CC has been asked to be one of two lead agencies in this project along with the State of Hawaii Dept of Agriculture.
 - Status: Passed

Looking Ahead

Goal 1. Building and maintaining stronger ties between the community at Leeward CC and the lawmakers in our County and State. In November 2018, I called the newly appointed Chair of the Higher Education Committee Donna Kim to ask her about her goals for 2019 Session. I was told by Senator Kim that all future communications with her office should be directed to the office of Kalbert Young (the VP Budget and Finance, University of Hawai'i. Her dismissive command led me to set this goal. It is not aimed at undermining the present bureaucratic structure through which the UH System and the State of Hawai'i Legislature negotiate. Instead, the goal is to offer Legislators an avenue to engage face to face with students, staff, and faculty at our campus. This can be done by faculty and students meeting with lawmakers at the Capitol, as Dr. Liongson has done in previous semesters; and by inviting lawmakers to come to Leeward CC for a visit.

Goal 2. Establish a mechanism through which individual and/or collective voice of Leeward CC can quickly respond to our Legislators and Council Members. Presently, the information flow is mostly one way; there is no established mechanism that can facilitate a rapid response to lawmaking that adversely impacts our ability to carry out the mission of Leeward CC.

If lawmakers know we are continually engaged, perhaps they will pay more attention when they hear from us about a particular issue.

This report is submitted by Sania Fa'amaile Betty P. Ickes, Ph.D.
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee

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April 17, 2019