Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Paloma and Members of this Committee,

My name is Jill Nunokawa and in my personal and public capacity, I write and speak to

encourage authentic transparency in the kuleana process and actualization. I have witnessed

the ongoing strife and suffering caused by the utter lack of disclosure, transparency,

accountability, diversity and inclusion at the University of Hawai’i for almost ten (10) years. The

absolute failure to genuinely address; student housing needs, student mental health needs,

student rights under Title IX, student, faculty and administration’s representation and

integration of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as the hyper-hypocrisy of advertising and

representing UH as a “Native Hawaiian Place of Learning” while simultaneously and secretly

securing hundreds of millions of dollars in the Department of Defense funding for military task

orders, many of which are top secret and hidden from public and Board of Regent oversight.

These facts alone mandate an immediate halt to the current business and profit as usual at UH.

Tuesday, April 3O’’, 2024 was the first day of the public process to select the next UH President

and yet, the outcome appears to be pre-determined. There are disturbing rumors of a pre

selection shoe in and this is intensified by the fact the UH Board of Regents has moved its May

16th, 2024 meeting from the UH Maui Campus to UH Manoa, thereby cutting off the Maui

residents from testifying in person unless they fly to Oahu. This exact date coincides with the 3

public hearings as reported by the Maui News on April 29th, 2024 regarding

on Kaho’olawe and Kapukaki (Red Hill), Makua Valley and Pohakuloa as active firing areas, and

the current occupation and control of approximately 25% of the lands on this Pacific Basin

archipelago.

To play an active role in the reconciliation of injustices prohibits further destruction and

development for the DOD and its military task orders. This is especially true at our public

institution of higher education. Our stated strategic plan is irreconcilable with the DOD’s

mission and instigates further harm to Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai’i by

contributing to generational trauma and the pricing out of paradise many are suffering through

now. Maui, especially after the fires that caused catastrophic damage to lands, resources and

people, has limited housing and access to water and sewer treatment plants. Building more

military operational facilities and using UH to front and launder DOD funding is in direct conflict

and is irreconcilable with its own stated strategic plan.
The rumored successor currently receives DOD funding through the College of Engineering.

The next UH President must demonstrate an evidenced-based history of prioritizing students

and the public mission of a university. They must have demonstrated transparency,

accountability, inclusion and diversity in their professional endeavors. They must articulate the

commitment necessary to lead during times of great change, conflict and controversy within

higher education and be able to quantify and evidence a pattern of authentic actualization of

accountability to diverse stakeholders and indigenous peoples in principle, practice and

purpose. They must have the necessary qualities and integrity to actually create, fund, sustain

and support an authentic Native Hawaiian Place of Learning at the University of Hawai’i.

We all recognize the historic importance of this time with the national Presidential election and

the increase threats of nuclear disasters, wars, and climate chaos. We live and love on a once

thriving archipelago that sustained hundreds of thousands of indigenous peoples prior to

contact by Captain Cook. One of the great equalizers to these ongoing threats is public

education, involvement and inclusion. In order to achieve any equalization, we must ensure

the democratic processes are implemented and integrated with authenticity, accountability,

and transparency. Many of these processes have failed to accomplish these goals and have

created a great deal of distrust, disillusionment, disengagement, and disenfranchisement.

The time is now to build public trust by ensuring the public University of Hawai’i system is

integrating its own strategic plan and reviewing the current conflict and clash with the purpose

and mission of UARCs and the DOD military task orders through University systems.