



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

David Lassner
President

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: University of Hawai'i Department Mitigation Protocols and Activities

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

We would like to provide the following responses to questions raised at the March 24, 2020, Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 plans and procedures for the University of Hawai'i (UH), regarding how we are safeguarding students in our student residence halls.

The health and safety of our student residents and employees are paramount. Nothing is more important, especially during this unprecedented crisis. As you know, we have student resident halls only at UH Mānoa and UH Hilo.

Our Student Housing staff (student Resident Advisors, professional Resident Directors and Assistant Resident Directors) are present 24/7, many living amongst the residents. Each is assigned to a floor, floors, or areas of kuleana. This living/learning environment facilitates staff in creating bonds with their residents and helps in keeping oversight of the community.

Student Housing staff continue to do nightly rounds, check-ins, now virtual more than in-person, and are available via duty phone for questions or concerns. There are also long established practices for staff conducting "wellness checks" on any resident for whom another may have expressed concern.

We have promoted and are practicing social distancing through activities such as posting signage in all common areas and installing visible markers to assist residents with ensuring a six feet distance from front desk operation windows and other locations where a line is likely to form, such as the order and pick-up windows for food services. All community shared spaces such as lounges have additional signage to assist with consistent messaging. CDC safety signage is also posted in other areas throughout all buildings. Social distancing is monitored by residence life staff, who remind students of the critical importance of these practices.

In addition to signage in all residence communities, we have also taken measures to promote sanitation in our shared community spaces. We maintain an inventory of operating supplies that include hand sanitizers, hand soap, disinfectants and cleaning supplies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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We know from past experience that incidents involving difficult behaviors often involve non-residents. We remind our students frequently of our guest policies. Whether involving residents or guests, our campus security programs work very closely with Student Housing staff to address any student issues or concerns that may come up. Most often, joint responses are associated with noise complaints and other disruptions. If security staff with primary responsibility for Student Housing need assistance, additional security staff from other areas of the campus are dispatched.

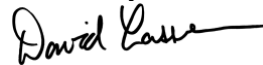
We have sent multiple emails to student residents and updated our websites promoting public health to our on-campus community. Key points have included the critical importance of social distancing, proper washing of hands, avoiding touching one's face, seeking a doctor's care if one is ill, etc. Occasionally, excerpts of these emails are shared with parents who subscribe to our parent newsletters.

We also encourage our student residents to be "good neighbors" and take on community responsibility. While student housing staff conduct check-ins and/or wellness checks with their residents, we are proud that our student residents have shown community responsibility by reporting student concerns or matters if and when they occur.

We do have student residents who are subject to 14-day quarantine pursuant to the Governor's orders. Residence hall staff are monitoring those who are under quarantine and are prepared to monitor and support those who may show symptoms of illness. As has already been started, we are fully prepared to isolate them, away from roommates, and connect them to appropriate medical attention.

In this rapidly changing time, our Student Housing teams have been responsive and as proactive as possible. Again, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our students and employees and we take this charge very seriously.

Sincerely,



David Lassner

c: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Michelle Kidani
Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Senator Kurt Fevella
Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, UH Mānoa
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Farrah-Marie Gomes, UH Hilo
Provost Michael Bruno, UH Mānoa
Chancellor Bonnie Irwin, UH Hilo
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, Don Straney, UH System
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dir. of Academic Technologies,
Hae Okimoto, UH System