STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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MARION M. HIGA

State Auditor

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President of the Senate State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Madam President:

I transmit to you a copy of our report, Management Audit of the Student Housing Services at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Part 1.

We found that the conditions in the dorms and on campus are clearly not conducive to student academic achievement and individual growth and development. Student housing on the Mānoa campus is in extremely poor condition primarily because the housing program does not generate enough income to adequately maintain the facilities.

We also found that the university leadership's plan to expand student housing capacity by about 2,000 bed spaces, starting with the procurement of a new 814-bed Frear Hall, is not justified by a demonstrated need for that many additional beds.

Further, university leaders have only recently begun improving campus safety and security to protect housing residents from such dangers as criminal acts, accidents, and disasters.

We hope that the report will assist you in reviewing the issues examined. We will place the report on our website, <u>www.state.hi.us/auditor</u>, and release it to the public and press, on Tuesday, February 6, 2007.

Sincerely,

Marion M. Higa State Auditor

Enclosure

c: Carol Taniguchi, Senate Clerk

Janle Gamare