

The University of Hawaii's new interim president, upon accepting the position, stated that he wanted to facilitate healing in restoring the relationship between the public and University of Hawaii. As I talked to the man on the street with no connection to the University, except for probably graduating from UH, the themes of their sentiments are; "what are those baboozes doing?"

The University, our University, your University should be a beacon of pride for our state. But unfortunately, mismanagement, wasteful spending, secrecy and lack of clear direction plagues the University. The University spin masters have to work overtime putting *"lip stick on a pig"* to try making it presentable, but it is failing. Some in the square building are afraid to micromanage the University. I, for one, am convinced it is in the public interest that the legislature intervene to manage, oversee, and protect the assets of the fourth largest budget expenditure of the State of Hawaii.

So how can our interim president reshape public opinion to combat the negative perception and also set the University on the course towards excellence? As all service-based industries, the University must give value to the public that supports them. I was reading a fable, "*The Emperor's New Clothes*"; it reminded me of how the University is currently managed. Substance rather than perception is what the University must produce.

How can this be done? Well, let's start right at the top. The Board of Regents needs to figure out what their role is. Be part of management or only be performing an oversight function? Are the Regents capable of setting goals, assigning tasks, evaluating results, and implementing consequences? The Legislature: Was giving UH "partial autonomy" the right thing to do? I always think of my children who wanted their freedom do their "own thing," but somehow it was always funded by dad's wallet. Funding is important; the legislature must fund the University so that it can achieve its goals. But the University must articulate what it is trying to do, how it is going to do it, and how much it is going to cost. The current carte blanch attitude of getting monies from the taxpayer or off the backs of the students is not acceptable.

Finally, the University management; is the system too big, and complex? Besides herding cats and babysitting, are there too many campuses, geographical locations, community colleges, four-year campuses? What is the core mission? Is it sports, diversifying the economy, being an economic engine, or teaching kids? What is the probability that all of this can be done with excellence. What kind of management structure is needed to perform these tasks? Are these expectations unmanageable?

Yup, the new interim president needs to take a selfinventory and look at every aspect of service that the university performs. I was always criticized when I said that "good try" was the war cry of the teams that placed second. However, I know, from what is at stake, "good try" is not good enough for our kids. At the very least, the new interim president should have a good therapist.

## **GOOD LUCK, DAVID!**

Aloha, chan w Chay

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On Tuesday, August 27, 2013, 7:00 am-8:00 am, HPD District 7 Community Policing, the Manoa Neighborhood Security Watches, Noelani School students, First Insurance, AARP, Representative Isaac Choy, Senator Brian Taniguchi, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi gathered at Noelani Elementary School to wave signs to remind drivers to slow down and watch out for pedestrians. August has been designated as PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH.



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