

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senate Resolution 06-16

**IN SUPPORT OF MORE INTEGRAL PROCEDURES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
AT MĀNOA PROTOCOL REGARDING DECEASED STUDENTS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS*, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) is the elected body representing approximately 14,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS*, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Procedure in Regard to Deceased Students states that the Office of the Vice President for University Relations notifies the next of kin in the event of a student or employee death on campus, at a University facility, or at an event sponsored by the University; and,¹
- WHEREAS*, the Vice Chancellor for Students is responsible for the processing of information on a deceased student; and,¹
- WHEREAS*, the Vice Chancellor for Students also sends a letter to the family of the deceased, expressing condolences and informing the family of the action(s) that are being taken to clear the student's record; and,¹
- WHEREAS*, the Vice Chancellor for Students notifies the Counseling and Student Development Center to take appropriate steps in regard to counseling of other students whom the death may affect; and,¹
- WHEREAS*, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Counseling and Student Development Center currently has no stated policy regarding university community announcements following a death; and,
- WHEREAS*, the duties of the Vice President of Student Affairs for other accredited universities, including College of William & Mary, includes preparing announcements for the campus community following a death; and,²
- WHEREAS*, the phenomenon of death is a universal circumstance shared throughout all communities on Earth; and,
- WHEREAS*, acknowledgement of an incidence of death within a community may in itself serve as a commemoration for the life of the deceased; and,

¹ UHM Procedure PDF

² W&M Procedure PDF

WHEREAS, any association with the circumstances surrounding incidents of death or acquaintance with the deceased warrants access to grievance counseling for those affected; and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i fully respects the privacy of the family and 'ohana of deceased students; and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i recognizes and cherishes the solidarity of the University of Hawai'i Mānoa community and each of its comprised individuals; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i supports the sufficient validation of student deaths through verification of official documents such as a death certificate prior to any external communication regarding student deaths; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i supports a uniform and standardized protocol for consistently, effectively, and respectfully addressing incidents of student deaths; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i supports an open communication policy regarding student deaths recommending grievance counseling for those affected; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i supports the withholding of circumstantial and personal information relating to deceased students and their families; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i recognizes the need of University administration to appropriately and sensitively respond to the event of a student death in a caring, professional, and coordinated manner; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: Board of Regents Chair Randy Moore and Members; University of Hawai'i President David Lassner; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Interim Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Interim Vice-Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta; Mānoa Faculty Senate; Graduate Student Organization; The Honolulu Star-Advertiser; and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Aye(s): Treasurer Takara, Secretary Tagaban, Senators-at-Large Callihan, Dela Cruz, Mitsui, Nishihara, Senators Bui, Candelario, Caramat, Garma, Hinshaw, Kim, Lao, Lawi-an, Lopez, Omokawa, Ryan, Samiano, Sevilla, Simeroth **[21]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

Introducers: Todd Simeroth, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences; Roxie-Anne Kamoshida, Vice-President; Lauren Tagaban, Secretary; Gabriel Candelario, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences; Sierra Callihan, Senator-At-Large