Hawaiian groups voice opposition to taro patents

By Matthew K. Ing
Ka Leo Staff Writer

More than 600 people gathered in front of Bachman Hall on Thursday to confront interim President David McClain in protest of patents of hybrid-ized Hawaiian taro by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. McClain did not make an appearance at the rally and was unavailable for comment prior to time press.

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The rally climaxed when Hōmele‘ole‘ole Wong, an instructor at the Hawaiian charter school, Hālau Lōkahi, led the crowd in dismantling the rock garden in front of the hall. The pōhaku, or rocks, carry mana like Hawaiian groups voice opposition to taro patents

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Patenting a people

Various Hawaiian charter schools, Hawaiian activist groups, and farm-ers, and supporters of native Hawaiian rights came together to challenge the university’s legitimacy in claiming what Hawaiians believe to be their eldest ancestor, Hāloa, the first kalo.

“The reason we’re gathered to honor Hāloa,” said Walter Ritte, a chief organizer of the rally, “is fornication against will. That’s rape – rape of a people. “One can only own the future by knowing the precise genetic profile of a plant, we can protect it and produce it on command,” said Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Andrew Hashimoto who is pictured above.

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After several speakers came up to voice their opinions on the patenting of the kalo, the crowd was directed by Hinaleimoana Wong to take rocks from the garden of Bachman Hall as a symbolic gesture. Chancellor Konan was amongst those members of the crowd who participated.

Over 600 people showed up at Bachman Hall Thursday morning for the protest regarding the patent of three types of kalo. Many groups including charter schools and hula hālau participated in the protest.

**TARO: UH patent aims to preserve taro species**

From page 1

UHM and inventor, Professor Eduardo E. Trujillo, ownership over the three developed strains of taro. The three varieties of kalo that now exist would be one or two at most if the university were not to continue research. The Hawaiians themselves were also skilled in breeding taro for specific purposes. Hawaiians brought only six to 12 varieties of taro with them when they first came to Hawai'i and produced more than 1200 varieties; he said.

**Community Voice**

If we didn't patent it, who's to say some more powerful force wouldn't patent it and abuse it?

Andrew Hashimoto
Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

When he comes back to his lovely garden he will be reminded of the wrong.

Hinaleimoana Wong
Kumu Hula
Hālau Lokahi

The message is loud and clear: no patent. This is not something you can own.

Lilikalā Kameʻeleihiwa
Professor
Hawaiian Studies

“We are the offspring of the kalo; it's the young people that should understand the cultural resources because they must protect them in the future.”

Vicky Holt Takamine
President
ʻIwiʻulakalani Coalition

“They do not have the right to buy, sell, own and manipulate our mana. They cannot claim us. We are not a commodity!”

Walter Ritte
Activist

The debate continues

While Hashimoto spoke, a single onlooker booed him loudly; however, the rest strained to listen. In time, the “boo” drew more hostility, and scattered yells of “no patent!” slowly grew into a clamor.

As Ritte took the megaphone from his hands, Hashimoto returned to the background. “We are not a commodity,” Ritte said. “This is one issue that we [native Hawaiian organizations] can all agree on. Even though we may not always agree on politics and choices for our nation, for this, we can be united.”

“The university is once again reminded that it is illegally occupying the land of our people,” said Nālani Minton, an activist for native Hawaiian self-determination. “This ʻaina [land] will not be demeaned or owned as property by the university or anyone else.”

Hinaleimoana Wong of Hālau Lokahi spoke against McClain before instructing the crowds to dismantle the rock garden in front of Bachman Hall and leading her Hawaiian charter school in traditional chants and dances. “This is fornication against will – rape of a people,” she said. The two other Hawaiian charter schools in attendance, Hālau Kū Mana and Ke Kula O Kamakau, also offered chants and dances.

“CTAHR and all of our Hawaiian groups are in the process of sitting down initiating a conversation about this issue,” Kameʻeleihiwa said. She also urged all of the protesters to attend the anti-UARC rally at Leeward Community College on March 16.

“We really need to come to a common ground between the cultural values of the native Hawaiians and those of the academic institution,” Hashimoto said. “The real challenge here is a balance conflict.”

“If, after meeting and talking about the issue, Hawaiians made a decision against research that represented the group as a whole, I’d back off for good without argument, though I’m not sure what the consequences would be in the future,” he said.
Walker runs though madcap movie

By Christopher Johns
Ka Leo Contributing Writer

On the official Web site for "Running Scared," writer-director Wayne Kramer describes his new film, saying, "It's like a Grimm's fairy tale nightmarish, but taking place in the mob world. You can see the hooker as a Blue Fairy or guardian angel character. You can see the Hansel and Gretel kind of characters, Grim Reaper figure... the imagery is there throughout the film, but it's subtle." The imagery he discusses is the only thing subtle about this film. "Running Scared" is a kinetic ball of energy, barely constrained by the celluloid and ready to explode into our realm, bringing its warped world along for the ride.

"Running Scared" is one of those rare action gems that pretend to take itself seriously while poking fun at the genre to which it belongs. The first item that appears on the film's Web site is a glowing endorsement by actor Quentin Tarantino. This is appropriate, as Tarantino's body of work is the closest approximation of Kramer's newest opus.

Kramer's previous film was the critically-lauded "The Cooler," and he effortlessly makes the transition from that film to the over-the-top action film that is "Running Scared." He creates a world that can exist nowhere but on the silver screen and convinces us that it is a worthwhile place to spend some time.

The mob world on the big screen has traditionally been a fascinating place, full of intrigue, hope, dreams, betrayal, riches, love, violence and death. In films like Francis Ford Coppola's classic "The Godfather," Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas," and Kramer's own "The Cooler," the mob world is an exciting place that the real mob world probably pales in comparison.

The plot of "Running Scared" is fairly simple. Paul Walker ("The Fast and the Furious") plays Joey Gazelle, a low-level Italian mob flunky who worships John Wayne — he even sports a full back tattoo of "The Duke" — and beats both Oleg and his wife, Mila Yugorsky (Ivana Milicevic, "Down With Love"). Tired of the abuse and influenced by John Wayne's "The Cowboys," Oleg steals the .38 caliber handgun from the Gazelle's basement and uses it to shoot his father in the shoulder. This sets in motion the main plot of the film, which is Joey's effort to reclaim the incriminating weapon and find Oleg before Italian or Russian mobsters find and kill the boy.

Kramer creates a canvas on which he can paint the most outrageous characters and situations. "Running Scared" plays out like Tony Scott's "The Italian Job," but Kramer creates a Grimm-like rendition of the genre to which it belongs. Make sure to stick around during the end credits for a Grimm-like rendition of the story and characters that help bring Kramer's statement to fruition.

For fans of the action and mob movie genres, "Running Scared" delivers the goods. If you go in expecting a realistic film you may be disappointed; if, on the other hand, you go in and just let yourself be taken on the ride, you will enjoy this film. I highly recommend "Running Scared." It is a fast-paced, masterfully-edited madcap journey — one that can be truly savored. For sure to stick around during the credits for a Grimm-like rendition of the story and characters that help bring Kramer's statement to fruition.
The Board of Regents has engaged in a coup d’état against the University of Hawai’i with their decision to call off a scheduled national search for the position of system president, and instead appointed interim President David McClain. In an action that came as a body blow to many observers in the UH family, the BOR, in a hastily-called, almost unannounced, meeting on Feb. 28, showed the contempt and disrespect it has for the voices of students, faculty and legislators. As the entire university system began to gear up for the national search, this small band of regentsthrew doubt on decades of academic tradition, best practices in conducting searches for university presidents and an offer of $250,000 for conducting a search from Senate Higher Education Chair Herb Kohl.

The issue was not at all in the person of McClain, but in a vision of a university that takes the voices of its constituencies. Not only is it an act of war against those constituencies to not value what they have to say, it was an act of contempt for obviously not even caring what the constituencies have to say.

Thus, with virtually no formal evaluation and feedback allowed from the students, faculty and community — as would occur in a real search — this group of nine regents convinced themselves that they are the only voices that matters in the entire university, and placed expediency over principle. This behavior only confirms the very worst of what many in our academic community believe that everything important that occurs at UH occurs in secret, without even a modicum of transparency.

Since this decision marks a dramatic statement that will rule out students and faculty input on the crucial issues as long as this board and this president stick around, the only question left, what will the various constituencies go do about it? There is more than adequate cause for students and faculty, in their respective representative bodies, to vote no confidence resolutions against the BOR.

Indeed, it also would be justified to participate in many other activities to demonstrate our outrage, ranging from complaints filed with our accrediting body - the Western Association of Schools and Colleges - to more direct actions to express our refusal to accept the oligarchic decisions of the BOR.

The only question that remains is whether students and faculty have the will and the courage to stand up for their principles. Will they pull together and say no?

Joel Fisher
Professor
Social Work

Oh yeah ...

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Ka Leo O Hawai‘i

Ka Leo O Hawai‘i is the campus newspaper of the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. The newspaper is published weekly by the Board of Publications, except on holidays and during exam periods. Circulation is 14,000. Ka Leo is also published onlinethrough News. The newspaper’s primary purpose is to inform and entertain the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa community. Ka Leo is a forum for student expression, in keeping with the UH mission to engage and prepare students for the challenges of a global and changing world.

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By Karim Benbourenane
The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh) (U-WIRE)

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By Magdiel Vilchez
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Even though University of Hawai‘i forward Julian Sensley’s final half-court shot never made it into the basket, the loss against Louisiana Tech could not spoil the spirit of senior night. A crowd of 7,978, all dressed in white, came to the Stan Sheriff Center to say aloha to four Rainbow Warrior seniors: Deonte Tatum, Matthew Gipson, Chris Botez, and Julian Sensley.

“[Senior night has] got to be the best there is anywhere,” said UH Head Coach Riley Wallace. “The people in Hawai‘i love their players. It’s a very comfortable arena and I think a product out there that’s exciting, win or lose, we don’t get blown out. To have this place full, it says a lot for the fans and how they adopt their team. The fans, the band, the dancers, the cheerleaders: that’s what it’s all about.”

For most of the seniors, senior night was more than their final home match; it was the beginning of a long goodbye to the Aloha State.

“This is goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center,” said Texas native Gipson. “It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center,” said Texas native Gipson. “It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center,” said Texas native Gipson. “It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center,” said Texas native Gipson. “It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center,” said Texas native Gipson. “It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center.”

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Hawai‘i’s seniors stop for a moment together during the senior night activities following the Rainbow Warriors game against Louisiana Tech. From left to right: Matthew Gipson, Chris Botez, Deonte Tatum, Julian Sensley.

RAINBOW WARRIORS SAY FAREWELL TO SENIORS

Rainbow Warriors say farewell to seniors

It’s goodbye to the seniors and goodbye to the Stan Sheriff Center.

—Forward Matthew Gipson
Comics & Crossword

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After a 36-25 halftime advantage over Louisiana Tech University, the University of Hawai'i men's basketball team witnessed a disheartening offensive collapse in the second half of their final regular season game. The 48-51 loss was Hawaii's first home loss against a Western Athletic Conference team this season, dropping the 'Bows to fourth in the WAC and matching them up against fifth seed New Mexico State in this week's upcoming tournament.

The Warriors played without junior forward Ahmet Gueye, who will sit the remainder of the season out with a torn ACL in his right knee. The team struggled without him in the second half. The 'Bows sought to overcome Louisiana Tech's junior forward Paul Millsap, who for the past three years has lead the nation in rebounds. Millsap registered 20 points and 23 rebounds in the game.

"Louisiana played well and Millsap is the real deal," said UH Head Coach Riley Wallace. "They wouldn't let us pull away from them there for a while and down the stretch he got all the big boards."

The Bulldogs defense in the second half lead to Hawaii's scoring draught that lasted just over 17 minutes, allowing the conversion of only three buckets the entire half. During the 17 plus minute draught, Louisiana Tech outscored the Warriors 21-4, as UH missed 16 consecutive field goal attempts.

The decline in field goal percentage from 41.4 percent to 13 percent, as well as a 91.7 to 45.5 drop in free throw percentage mirrored their lackluster performance offensively in the second half. Nonetheless, the 'Bows remained in the game as a result of their tough zone defense, decreasing Louisiana Tech's field goal percentage from 44.4 percent to 29.4 percent.

“We had to stick in a zone all the way,” Wallace said after the game. “Our defense worked but we just couldn’t get any offense going and in that one stretch where we got stuck on forty, we just couldn’t get anything down.”

Sensley was the only Hawai'i player to score in double digits, leading the team with 16 points and ten rebounds. Fellow senior Deonte Tatum contributed nine points.

“We needed to win tonight just to prove that we could win without Gueye,” Wallace said. “Deonte was calling everything right and we just couldn’t get it. Julian was taking it to the hole and they just wouldn’t drop. We would get a foul and miss the free throws. I think it was just asking to do a lot with very little.”

The Hawaii men’s basketball team, plagued with injuries from guards Matt Gibson and Bobby Nash, has lost a lot of bench depth this season, but now an even tougher task may be playing without Gueye. Senior night might not have sent the 'Bows out on top, but the 7,978 fans in attendance sent them off to the WAC tournament with plenty of encouragement and cheers.
UH avenges early season loss against New Mexico State

By Scott Allen
Ka Leo Staff Writer

While searching for their first road win earlier this season in Las Cruces, N.M., the University of Hawai'i blew a 14 point lead against the New Mexico State University Aggies and fell 87-84. Thursday night it would be the Aggies who let their lead slip away as they were outscored by 12 points from 12 behind to win 61-56.

After falling behind early, UH took control of the game and tempo with a 22-6 run to end the last 11 minutes of the half. A switch to a zone defense from the 'Bows usual man-to-man defense helped limit scoring opportunities for NMSU. The Aggies mustered only seven second-chance points while UH had 16 for the game.

“We just kept fighting,” said UH senior forward Julian Sensley. After scoring a career high 32 points in Hawaii's first meeting with NMSU, Sensley performed again with a game high 22 points in front of 4,960 fans at the Stan Sheriff Center.

UH junior guard Matt Loejeski attributed UH’s win to not letting NMSU control the pace of the game. "We were smarter about pushing it when we had it tonight," he said. The Wisconsin native chipped in 11 points and snagged nine rebounds, seven on the defensive end.

A put back by Aggie freshman Kevin Ford gave NMSU its largest lead of the game at 23-13 with 11:06 left before intermission. NMSU was doing well despite not having their starting point guard. We were active defensively and got some good looks at the rim, said NMSU Head Coach Reggie Theus about his good looks at the rim, "I thought we played well with 13 seconds left, two free throws by NMSU guard David Fisher brought the Aggies within one at 55-54, at the 2:01 mark.

With 13 seconds left, two free throws by Loejeski and two more six seconds later prevented the Aggies from sweeping the season series. UH improved to 17-9 overall and 10-5 in WAC play. A win last night by Utah State University also improved their league record to 10-5. With UH and USU both at 10-5 in league, they join Louisiana Tech in a three way tie for second place. NMSU drops to 15-13 overall and 10-6 in league to place them in fifth. The Aggies are now 7-0 in WAC games at the Stan Sheriff Center and 14-2 overall at home. UH is the conference team and conference best at 2.52 bpg.

Sensley Nominated for WAC Player of the week

Sensley has averaged 16.0 points and 5.5 rebounds in a pair of road wins over the past weekend. He had 19 points (16 in the second half) and added 13 points, including a game-winning 3-pointer with 2.2 seconds left in a 61-60 win at San Jose State.

Road Blocks of the WAC

UH leads the WAC in blocked shots with 6.04 per game, also accounting for 151 blocked shots for the season thus far, breaking the previous single-season school record of 128 set during the 1993-94 season. They are also ranked 12th in the nation currently among Division one schools, with Ahmet Gueye leading the way with conference team and conference best at 2.52 bpg.

Other Notable Facts

Longest Conference Winning Streak

Hawaii had the WAC’s longest home winning streak dating back to last season, tied at seven straight games.

Top 100 in the Nation

Hawaii may not be ranked in the top 25 teams in the nation, but they are listed at 82, which is a start among the more than 300 plus division one collegiate teams. (Notables: Nevada-21st, Utah State-49th, Louisiana Tech-74th)