MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i

FROM: Benjamin Kudo
Chair, Board of Regents

SUBJECT: Appointment of the COVID-19 Strategic Response and Economic Recovery Task Group

May 13, 2020

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It is respectfully requested that you approve the appointment of a permitted interaction group to be known as the COVID-19 Strategic Response and Economic Recovery Task Group ("Task Group"), whose purpose is to support and monitor the University's strategic response to the impacts engendered by COVID-19 upon the health and safety of our University community, continuation of academic education and programs, research and technology infrastructure, revenues, operating costs and expenses, and the overall present and future viability of the University system. The University's survival and continued services will play a critical role in the State's overall recovery.

The magnitude and nature of the impacts of COVID-19 upon public and private institutions of higher education throughout the United States is both significant and unprecedented. The uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the higher education landscape across the nation. Everything about the student experience, health and safety of employees, careers following graduation, and financial modeling and budgeting, have been affected. The Board’s management oversight role and fiduciary duty requires that we engage more actively in strategic planning by our administration to better inform key Board and administration decisions in the near- and long-term; the Task Group is intended to assist the Board in this regard.

The Task Group will investigate the University's response planning and execution, including changes to the learning and working environment, and analysis of the significant financial challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Task Group will investigate and identify ways that the University is contributing and can further contribute to the State’s overall recovery. As a result of this investigation, the Task Group will make findings and recommendations to the Board of Regents related to the University's: (1) response with regard to the student experience, budget, and planning priorities following COVID-19; (2) strategic near-term and long-term decisions