Lunch and Presentation

Monday, October 31, 2011
11:45 am - 1:00 pm
Aloha Center Ballroom
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Lunch and Presentation:
Higher Education In Hawai‘i: Unique Challenges, Unique Opportunities

Hawai‘i! What a unique state: the only island state, 2,500 miles and two time zones from California, and the capital of Polynesia and Polynesian culture. Each of these circumstances presents Hawai‘i with unique challenges and opportunities.

After lunch M.R.C. Greenwood, president of the University of Hawai‘i – and possibly Governor Neil Abercrombie, as well – will join the commission to discuss higher education in Hawai‘i. M.R.C. Greenwood has been president of the University of Hawai‘i since 2009, having come from the University of California System. The University of Hawai‘i System includes the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (the state’s major research institution), two baccalaureate campuses (Hilo and West O‘ahu), and seven community college campuses (four on O‘ahu, one each on Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, and Maui). Governor Abercrombie was elected in 2010 after serving the State of Hawai‘i in Congress for 21 years. Prior to this he served as a professor of American studies and sociology at the University of Hawai‘i.

With leaders possessing this level of knowledge about higher education and its service to the public good, Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned to address the myriad issues and challenges facing the state and higher education in these difficult financial times. You will hear about some of the unique challenges facing Hawai‘i and the innovative approaches underway at the University of Hawai‘i to address these issues.

Speaker: M.R.C. Greenwood, president, University of Hawai‘i

Biographical Information on the Speaker
M.R.C. Greenwood became the first woman to serve as the University of Hawai‘i’s president in 2009. Previously, Greenwood served as provost and senior vice president of academic affairs with the University of California System. She has served as an associate director and consultant for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Greenwood is also an expert on obesity and diabetes and served as the director of the Foods for Health Initiative, chair of the Graduate Group in Nutritional Biology, and distinguished professor of nutrition and internal medicine at the University of California Davis. She received her Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University.