

## **Re: Univ. Hawaii exempts those on soft money from pay cut**

Dear President Yudof and colleagues:

Yesterday the University of Hawaii President, David McClain, announced that those funded on soft money at his institution will be exempt from salary cuts.

His reasoning is:

"Though there are arguments on both sides of this issue, for a furlough plan of this magnitude (13 days per year), **I would not support having those paid with federal funds - except our executives in that category - take a furlough. Researchers paid on "soft" funds are true entrepreneurs, assuming the risk that their grants will not be funded, and represent a powerful stimulative force in Hawai'i's economy.** Indeed, in the fiscal year concluded June 30, UH scholars brought in more than \$412 million in research and training grants and contracts, an increase of nearly 20%."**[quoted from the letter below; emphasis added].**

Given the political, financial, and legal consequences of confiscating funds from those of us paid exclusively from soft money, you and the Regents can now point to the University of Hawaii's decision to show that there is now an established precedent, at other institutions facing a similar crisis, for not cutting those on soft money while making cuts, where absolutely necessary, to the funding of state-funded programs. By now, you can see a myriad of legal, financial, and moral problems with cutting those on soft money, set out publicly here:

[http://www.uclafaculty.org/FASite/UC\\_Budget\\_Crisis.html](http://www.uclafaculty.org/FASite/UC_Budget_Crisis.html)

If politicians continue to promote the looting of our property based on some economically counterproductive notion of feeling the pain, you can point now to the precedent of other state-funded institutions that, very wisely, have now exempted non-state funded employees from the cuts.

Many thanks for your continued efforts to resolve these problems, and for being responsive to our suggestions.

Paul  
Paul Thompson  
Professor of Neurology  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

