



October 1, 2013

Dr. Jerris R. Hedges  
Dean and Professor of Medicine  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
651 Ilalo Street  
Medical Education Building  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Dr. Hedges,

With this letter I am delighted to express my wholehearted support of the Hawaii state INBRE program. This statewide grant has, over the last 15 years, enacted a transformative vision for the capacity to do biomedical research at all of the higher education institutions in Hawaii. Chaminade is a federally-designated Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander serving institution that embraces the mission of addressing the educational disenfranchisement of Pacific Islanders from careers in science and the health professions. Chaminade's unique demographic of students (from Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and Micronesia) provides us with the unique opportunity to be a major contributor to the pipeline of biomedical professionals who are from the Pacific and trained with a Pacific-focus towards eventual contribution to Pacific communities. Since 2007, with multi-million dollar investments in facilities, faculty and instrumentation, Chaminade has transformed into a research-enriched undergraduate institution, with milestones such as a requirement for research and scholarship for tenure promotion (2007), hiring of experienced researchers and extramural support recipients as Deans (2007 onwards), recruitment of new faculty from R1 institutions, complete curriculum and pedagogical overhaul of the BS in Biology and the initiation of a new BS in Biochemistry.

INBRE has supported Chaminade's transformative growth in biomedical sciences through two grant cycles. During this time, Chaminade has been delighted to assume a leadership role. In INBRE II HSREP, our Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Dr. Helen Turner, led the Training and Education Core and in INBRE III, she provides statewide leadership of the Research Development Activity. At Chaminade, faculty researchers in the fields of medicinal chemistry, environmental toxicology, preterm birth and immunocyte cell biology have been supported and their funding has been leveraged into a portfolio of grants from NSF, NIH and DOD. Student researchers (over 30 per year) have been supported to conduct research locally (on campus, at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and Hawaii Institute for Marine Biology), nationally (NIH, Stanford, Brown, Purdue and others) and internationally (Costa Rica) as well as attended conferences to present their research findings which culminated for some in authorships on peer-reviewed publications and achievement of national honors/awards at life sciences conferences. INBRE's support was central to our successful application for a 4.2 million dollar BRIC (Biomedical Research Infrastructure and Capacity building) grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities.

We welcome all of you to the great state of Hawaii and look forward to strengthening ties between institutions and agencies to continue to provide the underpinnings for biomedical research excellence. Please be assured of my blessings and prayers for the Western States IDeA conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bernard J. Ploeger, S.M., Ph.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, S.M., Ph.D.  
President