

Inauguration of Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw  
Governor Linda Lingle's Remarks

Thank you very much President McClain for the generous introduction, to Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw and your entire family, to Al Landon, chair of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, and all of the legislators and others who are in the audience.

This inauguration comes at a critical time in the history of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and our entire state. I feel truly honored to be here at this important occasion.

Globalization and technology are reshaping our daily lives and our world. We must adapt and better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Higher education at UH Mānoa is vital to the progress of our state, the Pacific region, and I believe, our nation. We need to both make progress on improving our quality of life, while protecting everything that makes Hawai'i so special.

Chancellor Hinshaw understands all of this; her favorite quote is from former President Carter, who said, "You must adapt to changing times, but hold to unchanging principles." Chancellor Hinshaw is a perfect leader for this new era and for Hawai'i's future.

The following story about her illustrates a key reason why I think she's the perfect leader for this new era. As a young girl, Chancellor Hinshaw was fascinated by penicillin. Most girls are fascinated by dolls, or in my case bicycles; she was fascinated by penicillin. She decided to grow antibiotic mold for a science project, but she needed a type of moonshine liquor to grow the mold. She told her mother that she couldn't use an illegal substance. This is a true story: her mother asked a friend, a South Carolina judge, for a sample of evidence from a moonshine case. She was able to grow the mold.

Her mother didn't believe in the word can't, and the Chancellor shows that she has listened to mother's advice. She doesn't let any obstacles stand in her way and that is the exact mindset that we need and the mindset that she brings to UH Mānoa and to the state. This mindset of "don't say can't" that she will instill in the faculty and staff and students, not because of what she says, but I believe, because of what she will do.

Her background in science will also be an asset to the University. Her work in microbiology with influenza viruses and vaccines is becoming critically important in the world today. She will make certain that our university works toward becoming a global leader in research, which makes perfect sense for our new Chancellor, a self-described lab rat. She is tuned into technology and not just because she rides her Segway around the campus. She purchased it because she was fascinated by the technology, and she recognizes the value of subjects such as student robotics. She knows that these engineering and problem solving skills in robotics will help our students in whatever field they may choose. She supported these fields when she was at the University of California at Davis and she is now supporting our robotics initiative and promises to be very hands-on.

Chancellor Hinshaw is an innovator by nature. She's willing to make changes and to try new things. And this attitude will be so useful both for the University and for the state. She's taken a very collaborative approach since her arrival in July. She has gathered feedback from the University community and the community at large. She wears a name tag every day to make her more approachable. I have thought about doing the same thing, but I didn't know if my ego could take that. She understands that the pooling of ideas and a team approach is what leads to improvements and to innovation. She joins other women leaders of higher education at UH Hilo, Windward Community College, Kaua'i Community College and Chaminade. And she will be an inspiration and mentor to young women.

The Chancellor also has a cultural sensitivity that is critical to anyone succeeding in our state. The host culture is the foundation of these islands and is well recognized in the mission of the University. I know she has immersed herself in books since coming here, and even before coming here, to better understand Hawai'i history and society. She herself has connections with the Native American culture, as she is part Cherokee and cherishes gifts that the Indian tribes bring the country.

It's been an amazing first 100 years at UH Mānoa. Chancellor Hinshaw will undoubtedly start the University on a continued path of greatness for the next 100 years. I agree with the assessment by president McClain who said, "Dr. Hinshaw's rich experience, coupled with her inclusive and collaborative nature, will enable the campus to fulfill its considerable potential for the benefit of students, the advancement of knowledge and the welfare of all the people Hawai'i." We look forward to her success the continued success of UH Mānoa. Their success is our success.

Congratulations Chancellor and mahalo to all.