

HAWAII

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Oceanography school represents triumph

□ The UH School of Ocean and Earth Science is in place after a great struggle

By Helen Altonn
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Some said it couldn't be done, but the University of Hawaii's new School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology pulls together numerous programs and research institutes.

The school took about 2½ years to accomplish, largely with the push of UH Oceanography Chairman Lorenz Magaard and his department's Marine Council.

"Members of the old Marine Council were all pessimistic," Magaard recalled. "They all said 'You'll never make it.' Now we have made it, and, in all humbleness, we're proud. It was a tremendous internal struggle.

"The whole international oceanography community is all excited about it," he said. "They say Hawaii is finally getting its act together, finally capitalizing on its geographic and environmental advantages."

People tried for 20 years to integrate the university's ocean and earth sciences and couldn't do it, said UH President Albert Simone. It finally was accomplished with action on several fronts, he said.

That wasn't an easy task, since the far-flung school incorporates three UH research institutes and four departments, two state-federal programs, several federal programs, research laboratories and facilities for research ship and submersible operations.

Charles Helsley, acting dean of the new school, is still trying to get a count of the faculty and staff.

Also, 10 to 15 more scientists and six more staff people are being recruited for "a bit of strengthening across the board," Helsley said.

He said the school is starting with a base of \$10 million to \$15 million in federal support and aiming for \$20 million in the next two years.

While the various units were ironing out their differences, Simone said he was "selling the concept" to the governor, state legislators and Hawaii's congressional team.

He said he hired a consulting firm for \$100,000 to work with the congressional delegates to get federal funding for a building for the program.

Most of the \$40 million needed for the proposed UH Center for Ocean Resource Science and Technology has already been appropriated on a cost-sharing basis between the state and



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UH oceanography chairman

be built by late 1991 or early 1992.

Simone said the school will be a good state investment.

"We're going to be able to hire roughly \$1 million worth of faculty who will bring in \$3-\$4 million in research grants for every million we put in, half of which goes for overhead," he said.

Simone and the science leaders expect the programs to lead to spin-off industries with new jobs to stimulate undergraduate enrollment.

Simone has told committees looking for a permanent dean for the ocean-earth school, as well as the School for



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UH president

that he wants an international search to get the top person for the job.

Helsley directs the Institute of Geophysics, a major part of the new school. He said he will be a candidate for the permanent dean's position. Magaard also plans to apply.

But both said they want the best leadership possible for the huge new school, and Magaard said, "It may not be a local person."

The school's executive council, composed of all the program leaders, also agreed not to make major changes pending appointment of a permanent dean, Helsley said.

nology areas for emphasis by the school, such as sea-floor instrumentation, mining technology and growth of fiberoptics capability.

The school also will begin to focus on satellite oceanography and re-emphasize some marine geophysics areas "to make sure we have adequate strength to support fisheries expansion in satellite oceanography and marine biology," he said.

Magaard also is looking for rapid activity in three areas, including fisheries and technology.

He said Richard Shomura, who recently retired as the National Marine Fisheries Service administrator in this area, heads a committee working on recommendations for the fisheries program.

In technology, the school has to catch up with its strong ocean and earth research programs, Magaard said. For example, he noted that the university does a lot of research on ocean mining. "What we don't do is develop necessary technology to actually do ocean mining of appropriate resources."

The third area emphasized will be undergraduate education since the school is already strong in research and graduate programs, Magaard said. He said his department is considering offering an undergraduate degree in oceanography because the new school is expected to generate ocean-related job opportunities.

Helsley said other universities have some combined programs, but he thinks an organized approach to ocean science and technology on the scale the UH has is unprecedented.

Besides the HIG and the Oceanography Department, the school includes the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and its laboratory on Coconut Island, the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute and its statewide laboratories and the departments of Geology and Geophysics, Meteorology and Ocean Engineering.

It also includes the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory, which operates research submersibles under an agreement between the university and federal government; the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research; and the Sea Grant College Program, including the Marine Options Program.

Facilities include a ship base at Snug Harbor, the submersible operations at Makapuu Pier and the J.K.K. Look Lab at Kewalo Basin.

"All the pieces are here," Simone said. "We're really building for the future. This is an ocean state and people here ought to be prepared to take advantage of what the ocean can bring. . . . We should understand it