



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 11, 2013

Dr. Helen Cox
Chancellor
Kaua'i Community College
3-1901 Kaumualii Highway
Lihue, HI 96766

Dear Chancellor Cox:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 9-11, 2013, considered the Institutional Self Evaluation Report and the report of the external evaluation team which visited Kaua'i Community College October 15-18, 2012.

The Commission took action to **reaffirm accreditation**, with a requirement that the College complete a **Follow-Up Report**¹ that must be submitted by **October 15, 2013**. The Report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives. Reaffirmation is granted when an institution is found to substantially meet or exceed the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies, but recommendations on a number of issues should be addressed. The Report should demonstrate, and the visiting team will verify, that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

College Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Student Learning Outcomes

As was noted in the 2006 visiting team report and to meet standards, the team recommends that the college accelerate the development, implementation, and assessment of learning outcomes for all courses, programs, and student support services, with special emphases on the assessment of institutional learning outcomes and on the timeliness and completeness of comprehensive program review. (ER10, Standards I.B.1, I.B.6, I.B.7, II.A.1.c, II.B.4, II.C.2)

Recommendation 2: Institutional Effectiveness

As was noted in the 2006 visiting team report and to meet the standards, the team recommends that the college:

- a) develop a timeline for, and method of measuring its success in accomplishing its goals and quality assurance processes;
- b) integrate the results of measurements of success in accomplishing goals and quality assurance processes into its overall planning and decision making processes on a more comprehensive basis;
- c) incorporate on a regular basis the results of such measurements into the process of reviewing the mission statement. (I.B.2, I.B.3)

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Recommendation 3: Student Learning Programs and Services

See UHCC Recommendation #2.

Recommendation 4: Academic and Non-Academic Grievance Procedures

Related to a recommendation from the 2006 visiting team, the team recommends that the college more fully disseminate the academic and non-academic grievance procedures in the schedule of classes, the college catalog, the college website, and the student and faculty handbooks.

(II.A.6.c, II.A.7, II. B.2.c)

Recommendation 5: Resources

See UHCC Recommendation #3.

Recommendation 6: Leadership and Governance

In order to meet the standards, it is recommended that the college strengthen evaluation of the effectiveness of the governance and decision-making structures and processes on a regular basis, and use the outcomes of evaluations as a basis for continuous improvement. (IV. A. 5)

Recommendations 1, 2, and 4 should be fully resolved by the time of the follow-up report as they have been associated with recommendations from 2006. Although the Commission noted that the College had addressed those recommendations previously, additional attention is needed to address new concerns associated with the Accreditation Standards identified in the prior team recommendations.

UH and UHCC System Recommendations

UHCC Recommendation 1: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness

In order to meet the Standards for institutional effectiveness and integration of planning and resource allocation processes, including program review, it is recommended that:

- The VPCC and the Chancellors develop broad-based, ongoing, collegial dialogue between and among the UHCC and the colleges to better assess the breadth, quality, and usefulness of UHCC analytical tools (e.g., UHCC Annual Report of Program Data (ARPD)) and planning processes through feedback from college stakeholders. In addition, the UHCC and Chancellors should provide training for the appropriate use of the tools to support on-going improvement and effectiveness.
- The Chancellors provide clear descriptions and training regarding the planning timeline and budgeting process. The information and training should be available to all college constituencies and reviewed regularly to ensure accuracy for resource allocation that leads to program and institutional improvement. (Standards I.B.3, I.B.1, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.a, e, f, II.B.1, II.B.3.a, and II.b.4, I.B.1, I.B.4, I.B.6)

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UHCC Recommendation 2: Student Learning Programs and Services

In order to meet the Standards, degrees offered by the colleges must be consistent with the general education philosophy as outlined in the college catalog and the rigor of the English and math courses needed to fulfill the degree requirements must be appropriate to higher education. (ER 11, Standards II.A.3, II.A.3.b)

UHCC Recommendation 3: Student Learning Programs and Services and Resources

In order to meet the Standard, the UHCC and the colleges shall take appropriate actions to ensure that regular evaluations of all faculty members and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated student learning outcomes include, as a component of the evaluation, effectiveness in producing student learning outcomes. (Standard III.A.1.c)

UH Recommendation 4: Resources

In order to meet the Standards, it is recommended that a comprehensive UH system wide technology plan that includes and supports distance education be developed and implemented and is integrated with institutional planning. (Standards II.A.1.b, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.c, III.C.2, III.C.1, III.C.1.c, III.C.2)

UH Recommendation 5: Board and Administrative Organization

In order to meet the Standards, it is recommended that the UH BOR adopt a regular evaluation schedule of its policies and practices and revise them as necessary. In addition, the UH BOR must conduct its self evaluation as defined in its policy and as required by ACCJC Standards. (Standards IV.B.1.e, IV.B.1.g)

Kaua'i Community College conducted an educational quality and institutional effectiveness review as part of its self evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in its self evaluation efforts be taken into account in the continuing improvement of Kaua'i Community College.

The External Evaluation Report that was sent to the institution provides details of the team's findings with regard to each Eligibility Requirement and Accreditation Standard and should be read carefully and used to understand the team's findings. The recommendations contained in the Evaluation Report represent the best advice of the peer evaluation team at the time of the visit, but may not describe all that is necessary to come into compliance. Institutions are expected to take all action necessary to comply with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies. The Commission wishes to remind you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the Report, Kaua'i Community College is expected to use the External Evaluation Report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

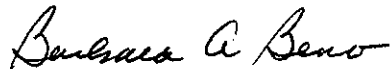
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A **final copy** of the External Evaluation Report is attached. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that the College give the Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External Evaluation Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to College staff and to those who were signatories of the College Self Evaluation Report. This group should include the campus leadership, the Vice President for Community Colleges, and the Board of Regents.

The Commission also requires that the Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External Evaluation Report, and the Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution's home page.* If you would like an electronic copy of the External Evaluation Report, please contact Commission staff.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Ms. Ramona Kincaid, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. John Morton, Vice President for Community College, University of Hawai'i
President, Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i System
Dr. Mark J. Zacovic, President, Cuyamaca College, Team Chair

¹ Institutions that will be preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. It contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).