

January 25, 2019

Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, Chancellor
Hawai'i Community College
1175 Manono Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Chancellor Solemsaas:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Hawai'i Community College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College October 15-18, 2018.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Hawai'i Community College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Commendation 1

The Evaluation Team commends Hawai'i Community College for defining and advising students on clear pathways to complete degrees, certificate and transfer goals. (II.C.6)

Commendation 2

The Evaluation Team commends Hawai'i Community College for the implementation, evaluation, and continuous improvement of its professional development programs that support faculty, staff, and administrators. (III.A.14)

Commendation 3

The Evaluation Team commends Hawai'i Community College for the incorporation of the concept of "Kauhale" to align the institution's programs and services with the college's mission by engaging administrators, faculty, and staff participation in the decision-making processes. (IV.A.2)

System Commendation

The University of Hawai'i Community College System is commended for its island-centered mission in identifying new programs, and for its successful system-wide

implementation of technology across the system to support program planning and tracking in clarification of students' academic pathways. (IV.D.5)

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1 and 2 and one UHCC System Recommendation for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on October 17, 2022. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the fall term of 2025.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Hawai'i Community College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/publications/>.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. John F. Morton, Vice President for Community Colleges
Mr. Erik Kalani Flores, Accreditation Liaison Officer