

January 25, 2019

Dr. Helen Cox, Chancellor  
Kaua'i Community College  
3-1901 Kaumualii Highway  
Lihue, HI 96766-9500

Dear Chancellor Cox:

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 Kaua'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 and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

#### Commendations

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

#### **College Commendation 1**

The team commends the College for engaging the campus and broader island communities in the development of a unique mission statement embodying the culture of Kaua'i, the land, and indigenous peoples of the island. It has changed the ways in which the College, as a *kahua*, perceives and accomplishes its strategic priorities in the community by embracing Hawaiian language and culture through curriculum development, institution-set standards, hiring practices, and use of land and facilities. (I.A.1, I.B.3, I.B.6, II.A.1, III.A.12, III.B.2)

#### **College Commendation 2**

The team commends the College for its unique practice called "College Conversations" through which anyone, regardless of their official title or role, can bring forward innovative ideas for campus-wide discussion and consideration. (IVA.1)

#### **System Commendation 1**

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.

Modifications to Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission modified the team's recommendation(s) as follows:

The Commission determined that the wording of Recommendation 1 should be revised for clarity as follows:

**Original Recommendation 1 (Improvement):** The College is encouraged to complete the transition to assessing of course learning outcomes through program learning outcomes and to use the results to improve student learning and achievement. (I.B.4)

**Revised Recommendation 1 (Improvement):** In order to improve institutional effectiveness, the College is encouraged to continue to improve the process for assessing student learning by completing the transition to assessing programs and courses on a regular cycle, and using the results of the assessment to improve student learning and achievement. (I.B.4)

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendations 1 and 2 and UHCC System Recommendation 1 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 Report<sup>1</sup> 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 Kaua'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.

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 stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. John F. Morton, Vice President for Community Colleges  
Dr. Valerie Barko, Accreditation Liaison Officer

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>.