

February 3, 2026

Ms. Susan S. Kazama
Chancellor
Hawai'i Community College
1175 Manono Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Ms. Kazama:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting January 14-15, 2026, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Hawai'i Community College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College September 22-24, 2025.

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

Commendations signify institutional practices which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Hawai'i Community College in the following areas.

Standard III.A.14 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for its comprehensive, inclusive, and thoughtfully constructed professional development offerings, rooted in indigenous practices, that foster a collegewide sense of belonging, care, and dedication to student success and mission fulfillment.

Compliance Requirements

None.

Modifications to Team Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1 is changed from a compliance requirement to an improvement recommendation. The Commission also determined that the wording of the recommendation should be revised as follows to align with the 2024 ACCJC Accreditation Standards:

Original Recommendation 1 (Compliance): In order to meet Standard(s), the team recommends the College regularly assess its record in employment equity and diversity consistent with its mission. (III.A.12).

Revised Recommendation 1 (Improvement): In order to increase effectiveness, the Commission recommends the College implement a process for regularly assessing its employment practices to promote and improve mission fulfillment. (3.1).

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Commission noted Recommendation 1 (3.1) and the Peer Review Team Report noted Recommendation 2 (Standard I.B.6) for improving institutional effectiveness. Improvement 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 these recommendations and the advice contained in the Peer Review Team Report. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the 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 Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. 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 15, 2029. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2032 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2032.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Hawai'i Community College undertook to prepare for this review. These efforts confirm that peer review can 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 Dr. Mac Powell or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President



Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.
Chair

cc: Mr. Erik Kalani Flores, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. Lui Hokoana, Interim Vice President, University of Hawai'i Community Colleges

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report template available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.