MEMORANDUM

TO: Allan Landon
   Chairperson, University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

VIA: David McClain
     President, University of Hawai‘i

FROM: Rose Tseng
      Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF STATUS FROM PROVISIONAL TO ESTABLISHED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT HILO

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents approve the change of status from provisional to established for the Master of Arts program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. In addition to the summary of the program below, please find attached a self-study of the program for your review.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval

BACKGROUND:

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program is administered by the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. It is a 60 semester hour program and meets the curricular requirements for licensure as Mental Health Counselor in Hawai‘i. The program currently is the only one in the University of Hawai‘i system that trains mental health counselors at the master’s degree level. The program admitted its first cohort of students in the Fall semester of 2005 and produced its first graduates (8 students) in May of 2007.

The mission of the Master of Arts program in Counseling Psychology is to provide multicultural, student-centered, graduate training in counseling psychology. The program is designed to train students to become knowledgeable, skillful, ethical counselors who will be able to help people in need of professional counseling services.
For students who may wish to pursue a doctoral degree in psychology later, the program provides training in advanced statistics and research methodology. It also offers opportunities for students to gain research experience by participating in ongoing projects and/or by initiating their own research projects or by completing a master’s thesis project. The program assigns a high priority to meeting the educational and personal needs of its students and is based on a scientist-practitioner model, with an emphasis on empirical research and evidence-based practices.

Counseling psychology as a psychological specialty aims at facilitating personal and interpersonal functioning across the life span with a focus on emotional, social, vocational, educational, health-related, developmental, and organizational concerns. Through the integration of theory, research, and practice, and with sensitivity to multicultural issues, this specialty encompasses a broad range of practices that help people improve their well-being, alleviate distress and maladjustment, resolve crises, and increase their ability to live more highly functioning lives. Counseling psychology is unique in its attention both to normal developmental issues and to problems associated with physical, emotional, and mental disorders. (Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 17 of the American Psychological Association, http://www.div17.org/)

CURRICULUM:

The total required semester hours are 60. Below are the current lists of required and elective courses.

Required courses (50 semester hours):

- PSY 601 (4) Applied Multivariate Statistics
- PSY 602 (3) Research Methodology and Program Evaluation
- PSY 603 (3) Psychological Assessment
- PSY 604 (3) Professional Identity, Ethics, and Legal Issues
- PSY 611 (3) Lifespan Human Development
- PSY 612 (3) Career Development
- PSY 613 (3) Psychopathology over the Lifespan
- PSY 620 (3) Counseling Theory
- PSY 622 (4) Group Work and Counseling
- PSY 623 (3) Social and Cultural Foundations
- PSY 624 (3) Counseling Skills
- PSY 640 (6) Counseling Practicum
- PSY 659 (9) Internship
Electives (10 semester hours required):
- PSY 614 (3) Family System
- PSY 641 (3) School Behavior, Adjustment, and Problems
- PSY 642 (3) Educational and Vocational Assessment
- PSY 643 (3) School and Career Guidance and Consultation
- PSY 651 (3) Theories of Family Counseling
- PSY 652 (3) Couple Counseling
- PSY 656 (3) Child Maltreatment
- PSY 694 (3) Advanced Topics
- PSY 699 (3) Directed Studies
- PSY 700 (3) Thesis Research (repeatable)

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

The program is currently in the process of hiring two more faculty members at the rank of Assistant Professor that were originally appropriated by the Hawai‘i State legislature and the University of Hawai‘i System when the program was approved. In addition, the program hopes to fill the Program Coordinator position at the Junior Specialist rank next year. This position also was appropriated by the Hawai‘i State legislature and the University of Hawai‘i System at the start of the program. Once the program is fully staffed, it will be in a position to increase the number of students who are admitted to the program. It is expected that no additional resources will be required.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents approve the change of status from provisional to established for the Master of Arts program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.