April 26, 2010

TO:  M.R.C. Greenwood  
    President, University of Hawai`i

VIA:  John Morton  
    Vice-President for Community Colleges

FROM:  Clyde Sakamoto  
    Chancellor, University of Hawai'i Maui College

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) respectfully requests the President’s approval to rename an existing degree and establish it as a distinct program. The Early Childhood Education Associate’s Degree currently exists in entirety as the Human Services Associate Degree, Early Childhood Specialization. Certificates of Competence and Completion associated with the Early Childhood Education degree would move to the renamed program. The Human Services program would remain with its associated degrees and certificates.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

No additional costs are expected, as the degrees and certificates will remain the same and existing faculty would become part of the Early Childhood Education program.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

August 1, 2010

PURPOSE:

The Early Childhood Education program has been educating those who want to work with young children and families in preschools, family child care, and other early childhood programs since 1971 (the Human Services program was approved by BOR in 1971, full-time coordinator/instructor hired 1978). Students would now graduate with an Associate’s in Early Childhood Education degree rather than Human Services, making it much clearer to employers and to the Early Childhood Registry housed in PATCH Hawai‘i that the student’s education and training is relevant to early childhood. The Human Services program and its certificates and degrees would remain intact.

BACKGROUND:

The Human Services degree program started in 1971 designed to meet the needs of the early childhood and human services fields in Maui County. Over the years, the program evolved to where there are now distinct...
degrees and certificates related to Early Childhood Education, separate Advisory Committees (Human Services and Early Childhood Education), and sufficient faculty to teach the required courses (two for ECE, one for HSER).

The *Early Childhood Education Associate’s Degree* is a common degree with Honolulu, Hawai‘i, and Kaua‘i Community Colleges. This common degree was established across the colleges in 2006. Honolulu CC separated its Early Childhood Education program from Human Services in 2006. Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i Community Colleges’ degrees were already established as Early Childhood Education degrees. This common degree articulates into University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu’s Bachelors in Social Science, Early Childhood Specialization, providing students across the state with access to further education and qualifications.

The proposed separation passed the UHMC Curriculum Committee (March 2010) and Academic Senate (April 2010).

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

Rename the relevant existing part of the Human Services program the *Early Childhood Education Program* along with the associated degrees and certificates, and establish it as a separate program in UHMC.