1. What impact will this policy have on federal financial aid?

According to 2009-10 Federal Student Aid Handbook Volume 1 Chapter 1: School-Determined Requirements,

**Completed program, no degree**
A student who completes the academic requirements for a program but does not yet have the degree or certificate is not eligible for further Title IV aid for that program.

To quantify academic progress your school must set a maximum time frame in which a student is expected to finish a program. For an undergraduate program the time frame cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the program measured in academic years or terms, credit hours attempted, or clock hours completed, as determined by your school.

Based on federal regulations, the seven community colleges have written satisfactory academic progress policies.

For example, Hawaii Community College states in its Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy,

**MAXIMUM TIME FRAME (CREDIT HOURS) FOR AID ELIGIBILITY**

Students must complete their educational objectives within a reasonable period of time. **Financial aid may fund up to 150% of the number of credits required for completion of the degree or certificate. Example:** An Associate of Arts (AA) degree requires 60 credits. A student may be eligible to receive federal Title IV funds for a total of 90 credits (60 credits × 150% = 90 credits). A student who completes the academic requirements for a program degree or certificate, but has not applied for graduation or posting of credentials to transcripts, is not eligible for further federal aid for that program.

2. What impact will this policy have on private scholarships such as Kamehameha Schools’ scholarships?

Time frame criteria for private scholarships vary. For example, Kamehameha Schools Na Ho`okama a Pauahi Scholarship, which supports students seeking their associate’s or bachelor’s degree, has a five-year time frame. Students may complete a degree and reapply for further financial assistance within that time frame.
3. How will students be notified that they qualify for a certificate or degree? Can students choose not to note their credentials on their transcripts?

The AA office is working with Gary Rodwell to develop a program for automatic notification when a student is at the 90% completion of required courses for a certificate or degree. Students may opt to have the certificate or degree noted on his/her transcript or not.