TO: Howard Karr, Chair
    Board of Regents
VIA: M. R. C. Greenwood, President
    University of Hawai‘i
VIA: John Morton, Vice President
    University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges
FROM: Leon Richards, Chancellor, Kapi‘olani Community College
SUBJECT: Request to change Kapi‘olani Community College’s Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Natural Science from Provisional to Established Status

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:
Approval for a change from provisional to established status for Kapi‘olani Community College’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Program degree, the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Natural Science with a concentration in Life Science or Physical Science

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:
Fall 2011

BACKGROUND:
In accordance with BOR policy governing Academic Affairs, Section 5-1a, Kapi‘olani Community College requests BOR approval to establish the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Natural Science with a concentration in Life Science or Physical Science.

No additional costs are expected at the current level of operation. The degree was first offered in Fall 2007 and has steadily grown since its first offering, with a current enrollment of 292 majors. Since 2007, the College has maintained the program through state-appropriated funding and tuition and fee revenue, and has enhanced the student experience through external grants.

Given the increasing importance of STEM in all spheres of business and in the specialized areas of engineering, biomedical, environmental, sustainability, and energy science, the prospects for continued need for STEM graduates is exceptionally good. The program offerings, geared towards transferring to a four-year STEM program, fulfill students’ needs for a complete two-year experience that will make them successful after they transfer. The STEM program is flexible and robust enough to meet the needs of returning students and first-year students, as well as providing graduates with the skills to complete a four-year STEM degree, thereby contributing to the economic potential of the state. Thus far, a total of 36 students have earned the degree and 67 have transferred to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
Program details are included in the attached documents.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

Approval of the change from provisional to established status for the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Natural Science with a concentration in Life Science or Physical Science at Kapi‘olani Community College, effective Fall 2011.

C: Keith Amemiya, Secretary, Board of Regents
   Linda Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy