March 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO:    Eric K. Martinson  
Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA:  M.R.C. Greenwood  
President

VIA:  John Morton  
Vice President of Community Colleges

FROM: Noreen Yamane  
Chancellor, Hawaii Community College

Michael T. Rota  
Chancellor, Honolulu Community College

Leon Richards  
Chancellor, Kapiolani Community College

Helen Cox  
Chancellor, Kauai Community College

Clyde Sakamoto  
Chancellor, Maui College

Manny Cabral  
Chancellor, Leeward Community College

Douglas Dykstra  
Chancellor, Windward Community College

SUBJECT: Establish an Associate of Arts Degree in Hawaiian Studies
SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

The six Community Colleges and Maui College have worked in collaboration in the design of an Associate of Arts degree in Hawaiian Studies. The Colleges together respectfully requests Board of Regents approval to establish an Associate of Arts in Hawaiian Studies on each of the seven campuses.

ADDITIONAL COST:

No additional funding is required for the program at any of the campuses. The courses included in the campus proposals are already established at the campus level and offered on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2012

PURPOSE:

The Associate of Arts Degree will prepare students to transfer to one of the University of Hawaii baccalaureate institutions to continue their studies in various aspects of Hawaiian culture. This proposed degree program has grown out of ASC programs in Hawaiian Studies at the community colleges and the desire to strengthen the University’s desire to become the preeminent indigenous-serving institution in the world (see Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao document). It will also encourage our Native Hawaiian students to complete an AA program and continue on for a baccalaureate degree.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Board of Regents policy governing Academic Affairs, Section 5-1a, and Executive Policy E5.201, Approval of New Academic Programs and Review of Provisional Academic Programs, the six community colleges and UH-Maui College request the Board’s approval to establish a provisional Associate of Arts degree in Hawaiian Studies starting fall semester, 2012.

Many students seeking to transfer from the community colleges to one of the four-year institutions is often looking to first complete their Associate of Arts degree. Articulation agreements among the Colleges and Universities allow for students who have completed their Associate of Arts degree at one of the community colleges to have met all the general education courses at the University. Hence completing the degree is an attractive option for students.
All of the College’s have well established Hawaiian Studies programs and courses. The purpose of this degree is to serve as an option for students seeking to earn an Associates degree and/or transfer to UH Manoa’s Hawaiian Studies degree path (for HonCC, KapCC, KauCC, Maui, LCC and WCC) and transfer to UH Hilo’s Hawaiian Studies degree path (for HawCC).

Under the current structure of degrees and articulation agreements, students earning the general Associate of Arts degree are unable to apply additional electives to their degree which will be required at the Baccalaureate level. With the approval of the Associate of Arts in Hawaiian Studies, students will have the ability to build in courses needed for their Baccalaureate degree as part of the Associate of Arts in Hawaiian Studies. This process will essentially allow students to enter the University with more credits focused on their intended major.

This proposal allows the institutions to focus on two major components of the strategic plan. First, as a Native Hawaiian serving institution the importance of courses and degrees in this discipline is key and unique to the University of Hawaii. Second, the focus of creating a pathway intended to allow for more graduation and transfers rates is also an important factor to help facilitate student success. The fact that this is a no cost option for the Colleges to implement and is an attractive pathway for students makes it an important initiative to approve.

Board of Regents Policy 5-1(a) provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. As an associate degree program, the required review would be scheduled to take place during the Fall 2014-2015 academic year.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents establish an Associate of Arts Degree in Hawaiian Studies to be effective Fall 2012.

Attachments
New Program Proposal, dated 2012
For: Hawaii Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kauai Community College, Leeward Community College, Windward Community College and Maui College

c: Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board