

INITIAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I'S TASK FORCE  
ON  
TECHNOLOGY & DISTANCE LEARNING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In July 2001, President Dobbelle appointed UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng as his Senior Advisor on Technology & Distance Learning, and charged her with (a) to integrate and leverage our efforts, while expanding them to meet both unmet demand for distance learning and untapped possibilities, and (b) to develop a systemwide plan for technology and distance learning. The report covers approximately five months of work, and lists the achievements and actions to date including overall conclusions of each area, and concluding with recommendations.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIONS

The six areas of achievements and actions are:

1. Assess Institutional Readiness
2. Study Other Institutions, National Trends, and International Opportunities
3. Appoint a University Task Force
4. Appoint Committees on Technology & Distance Learning
5. Create a Systemwide Event on Distance Learning - Distance Education Leadership Workshop
6. Recommendations and Next Steps

RECOMMENDATIONS and NEXT STEPS

Recommendation 1: To completely convert the present student information systems among the units to the new next generation systemwide UH student information system.

Recommendation 2: To design and implement a new technology and distance learning organizational structure that is complementary to the overall UH organizational structure,

and facilitates UH's technology and distance education strategic directions.

Recommendation 3: To determine the product, and successfully package and market it to Hawai'i and beyond.

Recommendation 4: To secure external funds via private gifts, state and/or federal funding, and to forge partnerships to maximize UH's financial and human capacities.

Recommendation 5: To develop and implement a comprehensive and systematic program for faculty development and training, and to develop and implement process and procedures for institutional faculty incentives/rewards for their work in distance education.

Recommendation 6: Distance education is complementary to traditional instruction. While there may be some policies and procedures distinct to distance education, wherever possible, policies and procedures must be integrated into the total university culture of delivery of instruction.

Recommendation 7: Continue with the collaborative bottom-up approach in balance with administrative leadership. The caveat, however, is that leadership must be astute and decisive in knowing when and how to execute decisions.

## CONCLUSION

Over the past few months, positive momentum has been achieved. There is heightened genuine administrative acknowledgment of present and on-going efforts in technology and distance learning, a greater degree of collaboration between and among university units, increased dialogue between and among administrators and faculty, and articulated optimism and excitement for meaningful change.

University of Hawai'i exhibits positive readiness to expand delivery of quality educational opportunities through distance education, boost its global competitiveness, and strengthen its overall image and stature.

*This report has been prepared by Audrey S. Furukawa, Executive Director, University Task Force.*