The Crimes Against Tourists program (CAT) is another fine example of the UH Community Colleges addressing the needs of the community, and in this case the visitor industry as well. When the results of a recent visitor industry survey showed that crime prevention and safety were top priorities, the state Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism knew right away where to go: the UH Community Colleges. In the past, UHCC has been quick to answer the call by developing programs for visitor industry employees that addressed earlier concerns for language and cultural sensitivity.

Jan Hironaka, DBEDT tourism research and planning coordinator, explained that “...because the community colleges have always been responsive to us in the past, we asked Carol Hoshiko [director, Continuing Education and Training Education at Kapi’olani Community College] if a program could be developed for visitor industry employees that could help them and the visitors, without frightening them.”

Hoshiko welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on the project. “We wanted to be able to respond and work closely with the alliance of businesses and government to see what needed to be incorporated in the program. We were prepared to address problems such as language and custom barriers.”

From there, the Crimes Against Tourists (CAT) program was set in motion with seven pilot classes completed before the end of last semester, lead by Bob Vericker, instructor and program director for the Administration of Justice Department at Honolulu Community College. Approximately 100 visitor industry workers participated in the eight-hour course.

If it were up to Bob Vericker, everyone connected with tourism would be taking the course. “We have only 175,850 more to go,” he announced.

Vericker is passionate in his plea to Hawai’i’s visitor industry employees to address the problem of crimes against our visitors. “This may be the single most important thing we can do for our visitor industry,” Vericker said. “And everyone needs to hear the message.”

Too many people on vacation tend to forget that Hawai’i, with all its beauty and charm, is still a place where crime can occur. Visitors must be vigilant. Often, a word from an industry employee can help a visitor take certain precautions. Visitors may often be targets of crimes because they are less likely to press charges, and they are less likely be around to testify if the crime is prosecuted.

“There are plenty of fine beaches all over the world,” Vericker said. “If we want visitors to come

(continued on back page)
I write this message in the opening days of the new year. I am still buoyed by the excitement of welcoming this Year of the Tiger in the company of my family — including three grandchildren — in Japan. This was the first time in many years that I was able to celebrate this holiday in the land of my birth. It was a relaxing and rejuvenating period for me. I hope the same can be said for you, because now we must pounce upon the tasks that lie ahead of us.

In earlier messages this academic year, I shared with you the priorities of the UHCC’s Ten-Year Strategic Plan, as well as our specific priorities for 1998. Both long-range and short-range priorities include: 1) a focus on students and their success; 2) increased accessibility to an associate degree; 3) professional renewal and growth; and 4) enhanced academic entrepreneurship.

Coming up on Friday, March 6, is an opportunity to pull together all of these priorities as our colleagues from throughout the system gather at Leeward Community College for the 15th Annual Excellence in Education Conference.

This year’s conference focuses on the theme: “Who Are Our Learners?” As I have shared with you during my Fall 1997 campus visits, the demographics of our UHCC student body have changed considerably during our thirty-plus years. We have seen a complete reversal in the male-to-female ratio, as well as in the transfer/vocational ratio. Full-time students have shrunk from 75 to 41 percent of our enrollment. The mean age of students has increased to nearly 27 years, and noncredit enrollments have nearly tripled.

Despite these changes, however, I am once again convinced that, “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” Regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or enrollment status, our commitment to students is a commitment to individuals. The strength of our community colleges lies in the fact that we can find a place for the single parent or the displaced worker, as well as for the full-time student fresh from high school. We have classes for the Phi Theta Kappa student and for the student who needs developmental study skills. In short, we have the flexibility to meet a range of needs. But we can meet those needs only when we have identified them. And the first step toward such identification of needs is knowing the identity of our learners.

How does all of this affect the way we do business? Your conference organizers have invited two dynamic keynote speakers to stimulate our thinking in response to this question. Dr. Terry O’Banion, executive director of the League for Innovation, will talk about “The Learning Revolution.” In anticipation of his remarks, I have asked the provosts to assist me in distributing to every faculty member a copy of Dr. O’Banion’s recent monograph, “Creating More Learning-Centered Community Colleges.” I urge you to read this monograph thoughtfully, so that you can come on March 6 prepared to ask questions, propose actions, and help our UH Community Colleges move forward as learning-centered institutions.

Joining Dr. O’Banion as our second keynoter will be Dr. Constance Rice, senior vice chancellor for the Seattle Community College District. Constance, former president of North Seattle Community College, will speak with us about her own experience bridging her college with its community as she discusses “The Community Demands for Students and Learners.”

In the afternoon, after we have heard from these two thought-provoking speakers, we will have the opportunity to apply their ideas to our own situations as we work in inter-campus, interdisciplinary groups.

It promises to be a day of enlightenment and of challenge. I look forward to seeing you there!
those who know Magdalena “Maggie” Visitacion were not surprised when her name was called to receive the President’s Excellence Award in Building and Grounds Maintenance at a ceremony held in Kuykendall Auditorium on the UH-Manoa campus on December 4.

She was genuinely surprised, however, when UH President Kenneth P. Mortimer congratulated her and handed her the award check in the amount of $1,000.

“You can’t appreciate what she has done for this campus until you see it,” said one enamored fan. “She is here often volunteering on her own time, using her own tools. She cares for the campus as if it were her own.”

The fan is referring to the Manono campus of Hawai’i Community College and UH-Hilo, where Visitacion is credited with quietly and humbly making a difference. Numerous nominating letters speak of her exemplary work performance as a janitor and her after-hours beautification efforts as a volunteer.

“As supervisors, we are constantly awed by Maggie’s contributions, over and above her duties, to improve both the tangible appearance and the intangible bearing of the Manono campus,” wrote Albert Yoshitsugu and Alan Sugiuura, noting her green-thumb projects: potted plants and planter boxes gracing entrances to the Hawai’i CC administration building and Gourmet Kitchen facility; a restored hedge where construction had created gaps; lantern ‘ilima and kika planted in place of an overgrown hedge outside the building housing Na Pua No’eau, the Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children; palm, ferns and flowering plants that soften the institutional concrete and tile of building walkways.

Hawai’i CC employees also appreciate interior green-thumb touches, including potted plants that Visitacion provides, tends and doctors and fragrant blossoms left on desks and in rest rooms. All the plants are products of her own garden—grown at home from seeds she bought or clippings she took from campus plants.

Visitacion is environmentally concerned. She fishes aluminum cans from the trash for recycling, educates staff about simple ways to conserve supplies and does research and tests to find the most cost-effective cleaning products and equipment. Equally concerned about safety, she pioneered the college’s safety procedures and switched to user-friendly cleaning supplies.

Called “sunshine on a rainy day” and “a Filipina Menehune,” Visitacion is praised for the encouragement she gives students, the pleasants she shares with staff and the initiative she shows in her work, such as developing a summer project to pressure clean walkways of mildew, moss and grime.

“As a boss, I could use a hundred Mag’s but I would only need a dozen,” says Kolin Kettleson, auxiliary service officer.

There were 38 nominees for the award which is given annually to honor an employee in the University system of 10 campuses who shows sustained superior performance in a maintenance, landscaping, custodial, shop or trucking position. Finalists this year included two more community colleges employees: Leeward Community College’s Leilani Ing and Francis Hirota.

Last year’s winner was Richard Mercado, a custodian at Leeward CC. He now works at Kapi‘olani Community College.
It’s amazing what can be accomplished when people listen to one another.

Several years ago, Kathleen Young, chair-person for the business education division at Leeward Community College, listened to Brian Moriki, then president of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), about his concerns that there was no records management program for students in Hawai‘i. And recently, Moriki had his opportunity to listen to Young and her need to upgrade the computers in her division.

The use of computers to classify and codify data understandably increases from year to year. No one can dismiss what a devastating effect a computer virus could have on data that control our entire lives. This was Moriki’s concern and eventually led to Leeward creating a records management specialization program in 1992.

If community colleges work correctly, that’s what they are there to do: to meet the needs of the community. Community college programs and divisions seek input from the community through advisory committees comprised of community and business leaders. Moriki worked through one of those advisory committees to voice his original concern.

“It’s all a partnership,” Young said. We listen to them and they listen to us. In this particular instance, Brian was the spark plug that motivated a joint advisory committee of 26 to help us out.”

The program has been able to train a workforce, and the business community has provided them with the employment opportunities.

But the division was beginning to suffer the consequences of aging computer equipment. Moriki responded to Young’s dilemma and led the joint community advisory committee beginning last May in a one-on-one campaign to fund the purchase of 20 new computers at a cost of $35,000 to $40,000. The effort became known as the “Adopt A Computer” campaign. Members of the committee went back to their own companies to solicit donations. By December 1997 the campaign was declared a success. Enough money was raised to get the purchase started. Provost Barbara Polk said she would have the college assist with the remainder of the lease payments.

And once again, we find that the “community college” system really works because people are willing to listen to one another.

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**Leeward CC’s Family Fun Fair makes learning fun!**

The Leeward CC Family Fun Fair this year was enlivened by two dozen different interactive educational activities featuring the college’s programs and courses. Hiran Pajo, instructor in CADD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design) helped fairgoers create their own robot. He took their pictures, then used the CAD computer system to print miniature sticker photos. Other activities produced by energetic, creative faculty and staff included: Chemistry Magic, Kaleidoscope Math, Marine Biology Tidepool Explorations and Culinary Arts Cookie Decorating. Live entertainment, children’s games and the International Food Service Executive Association’s Country Brunch added to the fun and festivities of the day.
Hawai‘i is the most isolated geographic land mass in the world, with the world’s highest sea mountain, the world’s most active volcano, and 11 of the planet’s 13 environments. Because of this unique combination of conditions, evolution has produced more native plant species per square mile than anywhere else in the world. Hawai‘i’s native plants usually lack natural defenses, and are among the most endangered in the world. Human encroachment and the introduction of alien species have resulted in two or three endemic plant species lost to extinction every year.

Hawai‘i Community College recently made a commitment to the preservation of Hawai‘i’s native plants and environment and the promotion of public awareness. Botanists Laura Brezinsky and Fred Stone have developed courses where students have not only learned to identify native plants, they have also developed a native plant garden, and propagated food plants in an organic garden. Last year the students successfully grew and distributed approximately 500 plants. These plants were produced in a 6’ x 8’ structure built from scrap wood without running water.

Recently a new 20’ x 20’ shade house was built by Hawai‘i CC agriculture students, and it is hoped that substantially more seedlings will be produced and distributed. The shade house still needs a misting system and a door but is otherwise complete and in use. It was officially dedicated on November 14, in memory of the late Dr. Lani Stemmermann, associate professor of science at Hawai‘i CC and an avid supporter of native plants, the environment and sustainable agriculture. Brezinsky and Stone recently received a $1,500 SEAMS grant as part of the UH Campus Compact/Service Learning Program to assist in the development of this very important service learning and plant propagation program.

The program has progressed successfully in a very short time with minimal facilities, and already students have been able to collect some seeds from the native gardens. Eventually the campus native gardens will be the seed source for the community. The current goal is to produce and distribute 1,000 native plant seedlings by May 1998.

In addition to distributing plants to the public, the students participate in the annual Earth Day celebration and give away native plants they have grown. Every plant includes an information sheet identifying the plant, its distribution, ethnobotanical uses, and instructions for growing. Last year approximately 500 school students visited their display, and most of them went home with native plants.

A service learning component of Botany 130 involves Coordinated Services, a county organization that assists senior citizens. Students working with Coordinated Services are assigned a client and make individual arrangements to help with yard work. At the end of the semester, native plants from the shade house are planted in the client’s yard.

Students also participate in the Volcano National Park’s volunteer program and the Natural Area Reserve program where they gain experience in weed eradication while learning more about our native forests. It is hoped that the students will also be involved in a trail maintenance program soon to help maintain forest trails and perhaps plant seedlings grown in the shade house.

Photos of the late Lani Stemmermann, associate professor at Hawai‘i CC, were displayed as part of a tribute to her work and commitment in preserving Hawai‘i’s native plants. The shade house was dedicated in her memory at a ceremony held on November 14.
Some 1,600 students take advantage of the UH Community Colleges Employment Training Center’s programs throughout the year, and twice a year, ETC stages a student awards ceremony to recognize students who have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities, considerable achievement and significant merit in their studies.

On December 19, there were 49 students honored at an outdoor ceremony in the courtyard of ETC’s main buildings located on the Honolulu Community College campus. These are converted portable classrooms that students renovated to look better than when they were first set up on the old Kapi‘olani campus on Pensacola Avenue.

There was pride in the remarks made by Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda who expressed her sincere congratulations to all of the students who had completed their studies at ETC. She later sought out each of the students honored at the ceremony to congratulate each one personally. There was a pride that emanated from the courtyard throughout the awards ceremony; pride from family and friends, pride and satisfaction rightfully visible from faculty, pride of accomplishment from the students themselves.

When Angela Meixell, ETC acting director, tried to explain to the audience what that “certain something” was that motivated these students to turn their lives around, she retold the story of the “Wizard of Oz.” She concluded that the great wizard of Oz did not have the answer to the quests of the lion who felt he had no courage; the scare crow, no brains; the tin man, no heart; and Dorothy, no way to go home. When he sent them on a mission to kill the wicked witch, they all proved that they indeed had all of those qualities within themselves. And if there is a magic formula at ETC, that’s what it is: it is the students having self esteem. It may mean changing an attitude, or applying themselves differently, but when it happens, they realize that they had the ability all along.

ETC was established as a state/federal program in 1964, and was transferred to the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges in 1968. ETC is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

As an education and employment training center, ETC provides focused, accelerated employment training within a uniquely flexible and non-traditional learning environment. ETC’s occupational training programs share facilities at Honolulu Community College, Kapi‘olani Community College and the DOE Leeward and Windward District Schools. Working through community partnerships, it serves adults and youth who can benefit from developmental support services and training which will prepare them for successful transition to employment, further education, or both.

Mixing in with the festivities following the award ceremony, Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda finds her way to another outstanding student of the program.

ETC’s director, Angela Meixell, congratulates an ETC student upon receiving his diploma.

Thomas Wong (left), executive chef at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, and Robert Wong, executive chef at the famous Greenbrier restaurant in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, take a moment to relax after preparing a sumptuous meal for guests at the annual Guslander Dinner, held on the campus of Kapi‘olani Community College. The two Wongs were also featured, along with Alan Wong, owner and chef of Alan Wong’s Restaurant, at the annual Ho‘okipa Night, held this year at the Hawaii Prince Hotel. The aforementioned events benefited the Kapi‘olani Community College Culinary Arts program.

Two Wongs make it right!
We like to boast about the various campuses of the UH Community Colleges. Some have meticulously kept gardens, or a million dollar view, or may be nestled within the nerve center of the community. But none may find a more formidable person associated with its facility than the UHCC’s Employment Training Center, located in the old Fire Engine House #4 on North King Street in Palama.

More than a hundred years ago, Honolulu’s fire fighting force was an all volunteer group, and a notable volunteer for the Palama Company was one David Kalakaua, king of the sovereign nation of Hawaiʻi. Knowing his penchant for acquiring the latest in the technology of the day, there is little doubt that he would have approved of the “scientifically planned” Fire Engine House #4 which was described in the Pacific Commercial Advertiser [later called The Honolulu Advertiser] as equal to the “best of its class in the States.”

Construction completed on July 1, 1902, it is the oldest public structure completed in Hawaiʻi during the Territorial Government period. A monument to the service that it provided, it sports a prominent tower above the two-story brick and wood structure that was more than ornamental. The height of the tower permitted the fire fighters to hang the wet canvas hoses to dry.

Until 1920, a proud and powerful, gray and black team of horses called Jack and Jill, occupied the bottom floor, along with a feed room, a horse watering trough, lavatories, the engine, hose wagon and hose washing tanks. At that time, however, the old steam engine was replaced with a motorized 1,000-gallon combination engine/hose wagon.

Fire Engine House #4 took its place in history at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when, without injuries or loss of life, the firemen of Engine #4 watched their equipment become riddle with shrapnel and scarred with bullets. The Palama Station was in constant use until November 1960. In 1964 it became the office for the State Identification Bureau and later was used as a gym managed by Tad Kawamura, where Stanley Harrington, the noted boxer from Hawaiʻi, trained.

In 1981, the Palama Station opened as the home of the Education Center, a community service program of Honolulu Community College under the University of Hawaiʻi. Last year, the Employment Training Center, University of Hawaiʻi Community Colleges, made the Palama Fire Station-Engine #4 its home.

There is a constant reminder of the tradition of this old building: exposed brick walls, historical photos from the Hawaiʻi archives and fire helmets are about. And every employee feels a constant sense of place—a place whose walls hold nearly a century of history and the memory of a king who was a part of it.
Her daughter and her friends think “she’s cool” since she and her husband listen to rock music. But things weren’t so cool after graduation from McKinley High School in 1976. Carolyn Kiyota had been a good student in high school. In fact as a senior, she enrolled in an early college program at Kapi‘olani Community College next door [the old Pensacola campus] to get a head start in college.

“I was actually very quiet in school,” Kiyota remembers. “My daughter was just the opposite. She was a cheerleader, involved in student government, dated the star basketball player. I was quiet, but always an advocate for a good cause—justice for the people.”

She remembers when she was told to have a certain document signed by a parent. She said “no need” and signed it herself since she was 18 which was the “legal” age at the time. “I think I knew then that I would become an attorney,” she said. “You know, Perry Mason was on television in those days!”

But it was a long road that took many turns. She didn’t go to college after high school. She found herself married, she had a child and then divorced soon afterwards. Her career went from retail sales clerk to working as a waitress in a Waikiki coffee shop, where she made more money but was always juggling her work schedule, trying to be a responsible single parent.

When hurricane Iwa wiped out the coffee shop, she began bartending. She really enjoyed that job. The schedule was great, she met a lot of people, but in 1983, with a seven year-old daughter to raise, she wanted to do more with her life. Within a year’s time, she formulated a plan. She took three classes which was the beginning of a two and one-half year stint at Kapi‘olani Community College.

“I loved it there. I never wanted to leave once I started. I was taking 20 credits per semester. I think I took every available course,” she recounts. “I took this one course from an instructor who had taught me 10 years earlier at KCC when I was a senior at McKinley. I remembered how great a teacher she was, and I wanted to take any course that she taught.” It turns out that the instructor Kiyota speaks of so highly is none other than Sharon Narimatsu, vice chancellor for student and community affairs, who began her career teaching world history and American studies at the community colleges.

Kiyota remembers that at Kapi‘olani CC, she was able to speak one-on-one with her professors after classes. “At the university, I never once talked with a professor,” she said.

What she also found at Kapi‘olani CC was the Career & Personal Development Unit where she could “actually make an appointment.” She received the individual counseling that she needed to begin again as an “older” student. Her counselor helped her with a national assistance program for non-traditional students, designed especially for single parents and homemakers. “Cathy Chow-Wehrman—I’ll never forget her. She told me that I shouldn’t label myself as a silly older woman going back to school (I was 26)!” I’ve never found that kind of caring at a larger institution,” Kiyota said.

She finished her baccalaureate degree at UH-Manoa and was accepted into the William S. Richardson School of Law. Going to school at that time of her life had its advantages. She became a real friend with her daughter. They had similar schedules and actually “went to school together—Courtney went to Kaimuki, and I went to UH.” Now Courtney is 19 and a sophomore at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Her mom passed the bar in 1993, remarried and works with Ortiz and Yamamura, A Law Corporation in Honolulu where she is an insurance defense attorney. She has handled a number of other cases as well, “from sexual harassment to fen-phen.”

One of her most satisfying compliments was to have been asked to speak at the Kapi‘olani CC commencement exercises last May. She had a lot to tell them.
Howard Kam is a very successful certified public accountant, but life for him could have been quite different after Waianae High School in 1971.

By the time Kam was a junior in high school, he started thinking about what he was going to do for the rest of his life. I thought I’d go off to college and become an architectural engineer,” he remembers. But he hadn’t been taking the preparatory classes to reach that goal.

In fact he took the SAT only once, and that day he overslept and began the exam 30 minutes late. He doesn’t like to think about his scores. That was the reality check. He decided to join the Hawai‘i National Guard after high school. He still wanted to go to college but he just wasn’t prepared. Then someone told him to look at Leeward Community College.

“Community colleges can be different things for different people,” Kam said. “For me, Leeward offered that second chance. I had to learn things that I should have learned in high school, but my attitude was completely different.”

He recalls that the instructors at Leeward CC were instrumental in helping him change his attitude. “They offered encouragement and were willing to help me outside of class,” he said. “I had never experienced such concern. It made me really focus on my goals.”

After a year at the Hawai‘i Military Academy Noncommissioned Officer School, he now turned his complete attention to working for his Associate in Arts degree in accounting which he received in 1973. He then went to the Army National Guard’s Officer Candidate School in 1974, followed by four years at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa where he earned a BBA degree in accounting in 1978. While there, he became active in Beta Alpha Psi, an honors accounting fraternity.

He was recruited right out of school by Arthur Young & Company, an international CPA firm which is now Ernst & Young. By 1982 he started his own CPA firm, Horwath-Kam & Company, a member of Horwath International with over 300 offices worldwide. Pacific Business News has ranked it the 14th largest CPA firm in the state.

Professional, he is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Hawai‘i Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a founding member of the International Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is also a Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) in the United States Army Reserve.

A family man, he and his wife have three children—all of whom have attended Kapi‘olani CC and one went on to UH-Mānoa. One is a web page designer, another wants to be an fashion designer and the third, an accountant. Perhaps the profession runs in the family.

“Community colleges can be different things for different people. For me, Leeward offered that second chance.”
A tax credit that could give students hope—only if they knew about it

The University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges launched a media campaign at the end of the year with newspaper ads, radio commercials and news release on all islands to remind potential students of a federal tax credit known as the Hope Scholarship.

It was a bit of a Christmas present from Uncle Sam that could offer hope for anyone who may be thinking of enrolling at one of the seven UH Community Colleges statewide.

The “gift” is a federal tax credit that can begin to accumulate as soon as January 1998, but the problem is that not very many people were aware of it.

“We’ve asked the assistance of our local media to let everyone know that this is a way to save money for anyone about to pursue a post-secondary education,” said Sharon Narimatsu, vice chancellor for student and community affairs for the UH Community Colleges.

“The program is a federal tax credit that could mean a free education for some students at any of the seven UH Community Colleges.”

The potential tax credit is particularly important for those who decide on a UH Community College as their first choice for post-secondary education. There is no age restriction, so it could be the ideal opportunity for someone already in the workforce to get the education he or she always wanted. To take full advantage of the federal government’s program, students should begin school this semester.

The federal Tax Relief Act of

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OHA honors former Leeward prof

According to the students who nominated her, it couldn’t have been given to a more deserving person.

Naomi Noelanioko’olau Clark Losch was presented one of only four awards recently: “No Ka Hana ‘Imi Na’auao Hawai’i Maika’i Loa—In Recognition of the Achievement of Excellence in Hawaiian Education.” The award is given each year by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Losch is an assistant professor in Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific languages and literature at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

Her nomination for the OHA award followed a three-week language/cultural exchange with a study abroad group she took to Aotearoa this past summer. In 1996-97, her program hosted several Maori students who invited the Hawai’i students to their homeland. Sixteen fourth-year students raised enough money to make the trip and earned six credits at the same time.

“I am especially honored to have even been nominated for this award by these students,” Losch said with ha’aha’a (humility), “I never expected them to do that.”

Losch began her higher education teaching career at Leeward Community College in 1970. She left as an associate professor in Hawaiian Language to go to Manoa where she has been since 1994. A Kamehameha Schools graduate, she received her B.A. in anthropology and her M.A. in Pacific Island studies at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. While at Mānoa she took Hawaiian language courses “... for my personal enrichment,” never realizing that she would be teaching the language years later. Her career led her to the Bishop Museum where she worked closely with Mary Kawena Pukui as an assistant in anthropology.

Federal tax credit to benefit community college students (continued from page 10)

1997, signed into law recently by President Clinton, provides for this tax credit. It is called the Hope Scholarship and is available to first and second year college students beginning January 1998. Eligible students may receive up to $1,500 in “Hope” tax credits for tuition and fees paid after January 1, 1998. Since each case may differ slightly, students and their parents are advised to consult a tax adviser.

Students not eligible for the Hope tax credit may qualify for the Lifetime Learning benefit which allows up to $1,000 for qualified tuition and expenses after June 30, 1998.

There are additional features in the new law that may apply to any number of individuals. More information is available by calling the Office of the Chancellor for the Community Colleges in Honolulu at 956-7313.

Although congress passed the bill and an announcement was made several months ago, Washington only recently outlined the particulars of how the law was to be administered.

“This is the reason we needed to inform potential students about the federal program,” Narimatsu continued. “Now that we have been told how the tax credit will be implemented, we want everyone to know that they may be eligible.”
CAT program a success

here they have to know we still have the Aloha Spirit, and we’ve got to show it, too.”

He echoes a tape that is shown during the eight-hour CAT program. It features Maile Meyer, CEO of Native Books and Beautiful Things. She says, “...in Hawai‘i, putting your aloha shirt on and saying ‘aloha’ means nothing unless you are really living it.”

Vericker, a former FBI Special Agent, has designed the CAT program for everyone from traditional police to retail store employees. It employs three instructors: an investigator, a police officer, and a cultural and language specialist.

“If everybody completes the CAT program, we and our future generations win,” Vericker said.

And those who have completed the program have nothing but accolades for it. Charles Reeves, director of security at the Ilikai Nikko Waikiki hotel, took the course and sent 20 co-workers. He commented, “It was well worth it. Now we can understand the cultural aspects of visitors who bring with them different customs and understandings that sometimes make them more vulnerable. Knowing that, we can deal with it better.”

According to the Honolulu Police Department, crime dropped last year on O‘ahu more than 10 percent, but crimes against tourists increased 14 percent. Officials say Hawai‘i maintains the image of being a safe destination, but the publicity of just one bad incident could ruin our reputation. Florida can attest to that.

Murray Towill, president of the Hawai‘i Hotel Association, considers CAT “...a valuable program that helps inform visitor industry employees of procedures and precautions, and it also sends a very positive message to visitors that we care enough to maintain Hawai‘i’s worldwide reputation of being a safe place to visit.”

Representatives from the Honolulu and Kapi‘olani Community Colleges were on hand at the signing of the 1997 Crime Prevention Proclamation.