The Leeward region of O‘ahu is an area in transition. Where there were once fields of sugar cane, new housing and business developments are sprouting. Though the plantation days still linger as fond memories, the community is busily working together to bring new vitality and growth to the district. It is a region steeped in a rich multicultural heritage, where technology parks and diversified agriculture are beginning to find their niche.

Settled amidst the neighborhoods of Aiea, Waipahu, Pearl City, Nanakuli and Kapolei, lies Leeward Community College. As one of the key participants in the state’s workforce development efforts, Leeward CC is reaching out to these communities to help them plan and implement their future.

BEGINNINGS

In the fall of 1968, when Leeward CC first opened its doors in the abandoned buildings of Pearl Kai Elementary, administrators anticipated enrollment of about 700. Imagine the astonishment when 1,600 students arrived at the door seeking to enroll. Since then, enrollment in credit classes has steadily grown to make Leeward CC one of the the largest community colleges in the State.

A permanent 49-acre campus opened in 1971 with a dedication by Governor John A. Burns. At the ceremony, Burns commented, “This college, nested in a setting overlooking the harbor where once was fought the battle which ushered in the modern Hawai‘i, also symbolizes the role the community college is to play in the years ahead. A community college is a new concept in our educational system. It is uniquely designed to develop and nurture into things of beauty and productivity the underdeveloped resources of our people.”

continued on page 3
Promoting our diversity for the future

Welcome to the 21st century! How exciting to think we have entered into this new millennium—this brand new start—with so many accomplishments behind us and so many challenges ahead.

As new technologies erase old limits of space and time, they are changing the face of education. We, the administrative team, the faculty and staff of our Community Colleges, have a great opportunity to re-create education. Our task is to develop effective, learning-centered higher education opportunities for students of the 21st century.

In a recent study of diversity prepared by President Clinton, he comments, “Our diversity is one of the most valued attributes of our nation. The success of this country is built upon the unique contributions of every racial and ethnic group.” That statement is as profound here in Hawai‘i as it is anywhere in the United States. We are a diverse group of people.

Yet, even for us, new technologies and growing multicultural awareness are removing limitations that at one time seemed permanent and immovable. Being one of the most remote, inhabited places on earth no longer separates us from distant continents. At the flick of a switch, we can interact, buy, sell or even enroll in educational programs across the globe. Fostering an environment of diversity and cultural sensitivity on our campuses is more essential than ever.

Goal C of our 1997-2007 Strategic Plan calls for the UHCCs to continue to champion diversity and respect for differences. This goal is tied very closely to the overall UHCC mission. If we are to provide access to quality and relevant educational opportunities, we must ensure that our doors are open to all. This includes minorities, Native Hawaiians. It includes those with special needs and growing numbers of students with international backgrounds.

The federal 5-year development grant under the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions program of Title III of the Higher Education Act received by five of our campuses will help us increase the effectiveness of our programs for Native Hawaiians. Federal support also helps us to offer programs such as the Single Parents and Homemakers services mentioned in this newsletter (pg 6). A recent Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Grant allowed the chancellor’s office to develop brochures, bus posters and other materials to promote non-traditional fields of study for women. New corporate and community partnerships are also helping us provide counseling and financial support to serve our diverse student population. All these activities demonstrate our commitment to the goal of championing diversity.

There are many new trends and technologies available to us in education—corporation-based certifications, distance education, Web and Internet courses, and customized training programs. We can use these tools to modify curriculum, provide alternative delivery methods, and expand our reach to more diverse populations. Yet these same innovations create many new challenges and can leave us feeling a bit overwhelmed.

That is why I remind you from time to time to look at the UHCC Strategic Plan and use it as a road map. If we keep our eye on our basic goals, we will make wise decisions about these innovations.

So, welcome back, and thank you for your ongoing support as we collectively take on the challenges and opportunities this new year and new millennium afford us.

Joyce S. Tsunoda
Senior Vice President and Chancellor for Community Colleges

"We, the administrative team, the faculty and staff of our Community Colleges, have a great opportunity to re-create education."
Today, nearly 6,000 students are regularly enrolled each semester in liberal arts and vocational education programs offered at the Leeward CC campus, at the LCC Wai’anae Education Center, at other off-campus locations in the community, and through distance education courses.

The open, airy campus, with its commanding view of Pearl Harbor, is also home to a public observatory park and a community theatre.

Leeward CC’s solid curriculum in science and technology, and the vibrant, community-oriented performing arts program, help the college attract students from other areas of O’ahu and the state as well as from the Leeward coast. Students receive a strong educational foundation that serves as a base for whatever specialization they choose. Vocational programs offered at LCC include automotive, business, computer technology, food service, and television production, among others.

Non-credit classes, workshops, forums and cultural activities such as music, drama, and dance performances, also help bring the Leeward community together at the college.

**TOWARD THE FUTURE**

Leeward CC is committed to providing an educational environment that accepts people as they are and fosters the development of each student’s unique talents. At LCC, education is a cooperative endeavor in which students, faculty, and staff share responsibility.

Provost Sharon Narimatsu says, “Leeward CC plays an important role as an academic leader and partner in the development of Leeward and Central O‘ahu. By linking with the community and providing excellent education and training opportunities, LCC can enhance the region’s economic and social environment while meeting each student’s educational goal.”

The college recently launched a Philippines Studies Certificate program, the first in the Community College system, to provide LCC’s large Filipino student body an opportunity to learn more about its historical and cultural heritage. Also, with 69% of Hawaiian Homes Lands on O‘ahu located on the Leeward coast, LCC will be using its newly awarded Title III federal funding to create a Hawaiian Studies Program to broaden access for Native Hawaiians and other students interested in the program offerings.

Complementing these liberal arts initiatives are the technical and vocational programs that offer the latest technologies in support of emerging industries such as e-commerce, digital media and computer networking.

“Not only are we an educational resource in the traditional sense, we also provide a vital link with DOE schools and businesses in the region. We serve as the area’s cultural center because of our theatre and vibrant music, art, dance and drama programs,” explains Narimatsu.

A visit to the campus certainly confirms these claims. While some students park semi rigs in the parking lot, training for their commercial drivers’ license test, others are in the computer lab reaching out to the world via the internet. Scenery for the latest drama production may be under construction in the theatre, or perhaps there’s a craft fair, or an international seminar, or a culinary event in The Pearl, a campus restaurant. No matter what is happening, you will find that LCC is a vital hub for education and culture for the Leeward community.
On November 19, 1999, the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents appointed Sharon S. Narimatsu to be provost of Leeward Community College. For Narimatsu, who has been the college’s acting provost for the past year, the appointment represents a wonderful opportunity to join in collaborative efforts with LCC faculty and staff to achieve many goals for the campus and the surrounding community.

Prior to her position at LCC, Narimatsu had been the UHCC Vice Chancellor for Student and Community Affairs. Previously, she worked as a lecturer at Honolulu CC, as a tenured faculty member at Kapi‘olani CC, and served as Director of the Office of Information and Complaint as a member of the Mayor’s Cabinet for the City and County of Honolulu under Mayor Eileen Anderson.

Narimatsu plans to fortify the college’s liberal arts program, emphasizing its strengths in science, technology and the performing arts. She also wants to promote its outstanding vocational programs. By building business and community partnerships, she also hopes to prepare the college to better serve the region’s economic and social environment.

Narimatsu serves as a Director for the USS Missouri, a Director for the Waipahu Business Association, and as a Director for the Organization of Women Leaders (OWL). Narimatsu’s past awards include the UH Distinguished Alumni Award, the Hawai‘i Public Administration Award, and in November 1999, she was awarded the OWL Woman Leader of the Year.

The Employment Training Center is now a Microsoft Office Use Specialist Authorized Testing Center. The MOUS program is a nationally recognized certification program that provides benchmarks to validate desktop computer skills using Office ‘97 and, in the near future, Office 2000. Certification is quickly becoming the standard for measuring applied knowledge.

As a testing center, ETC offers three levels of certification: Proficient, Expert and Master. The exam questions come from real-world scenarios, which accurately mirror on-the-job performance. All testing is computer-based and offered at Authorized Testing Centers only. For information, contact Evelyn Sugihara at 844-2316.

The Career and College Fair in November is truly a systemwide effort for the UHCCs. Everything from piecing together the display to coordinating shipment of materials to the neighbor islands, takes considerable planning, coordination and involvement by counselors and other UHCC staff members. And just as the professional ice-skater makes amazing feats on ice look easy, the folks involved in this annual event do it so well, you would never know the amount of work involved—especially if you attended the Fair and saw these same staff members busily working at the booth.

Mahalo to all the volunteers who annually help create this successful event.

MOUS@ETC

ETC’s historic firehouse office building.

Counselors create Fair success

Maui CC’s Mona Stevenson, Dolores Manaba and Margaret Bruck at the Career and College Fair.
Honolulu Community College’s Freedom Monument, a 3-ton piece of the Berlin Wall that made a 12,000-mile journey from Berlin by barge, ship and truck before arriving in Hawai‘i, was the scene of a celebration on November 9. Honolulu CC Professor Rick Ziegler, who was largely responsible for bringing this historically significant piece to the college, planned the event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the day the Berlin Wall finally fell.

Several hundred people gathered on the HonCC lawn for the celebration. The event featured Dr. Niklaus Schweizer, UH Professor of German and author of The German Speaking Peoples of Hawai‘i, who told of the unique relationship between the German and Hawaiian people. The Royal Hawaiian Band (started by German musician Henri Berger) played, and a Hawaiian chant was performed by McKinley High School students, who draped the Wall with a 25-foot lei.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that tourists in Berlin wanting to see the wall are told that not much remains. It has been ground into rubble for street paving or broken into small pieces to be sold in souvenir shops. The Journal also noted that one of the largest pieces on display is at Honolulu CC.

Congratulations!

Two of the Children’s Centers of Honolulu Community College have been accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. Accreditation has been granted to Leeward CC’s Children’s Center and Kākī Ha‘uoli Children’s Center at HonCC. The programs were required to undergo a rigorous self-study process and an evaluation by a national expert to receive the accreditation. Only 58 early childhood programs in Hawai‘i have earned this honor.

Leeward CC Fair attracted the biggest crowd ever as more than 6,000 people attended the 1999 LCC Family Fun and Craft Fair on October 30, 1999. LCC Organizers estimated it was the biggest turnout yet for the event which attracts people of all ages for its crafts, educational activities, entertainment and fun atmosphere.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka paid a visit to the tuition-free Native Hawaiian Community-Based Education Learning Center project at Leeward CC during a recent Congressional recess. In the photo is Senator Akaka (left) and Lucy Gay, Director of the Office of Continuing Education and Training, admiring the artwork of project students.
Single Parents program has big impact

The Single Parent/Dispaced Homemaker (SP/DH) program, funded by the federal vocational education grant and offered at seven of our institutions is making positive strides in the lives of many of our UH Community College students. The SP/DH program is part of the student support services offered at the Employment Training Center and at Honolulu, Kapi’olani, Leeward, Hawai’i, Kaua’i and Maui Community Colleges. The primary goal of the program is to broaden the access to vocational educational programs to individuals identified as single parents and displaced homemakers; and assist them to gain marketable employment skills and attain economic self-sufficiency.

The total number of students served in the 1997-98 program year was 719. The number of students served at each campus varies widely as do the types of services provided at the various campuses. However, the majority of program activities are related to financial assistance in the areas of childcare, tuition, and textbook/supplies vouchers. An April 1999 study by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) shows that the program increases grade point averages, student retention, graduation levels and occupational attainment. Also, fewer program participants were found to receive public assistance post-program, in comparison with pre-program levels (56% vs. 78%).

According to the study, many participants reported that they would not have been able to complete their studies without the financial, academic counseling and emotional assistance SP/DH provides.

Surgical Tech program at KapCC first in state

By KapCC student and Kapi’o Editor Kevin Kaneshiro

The one year program provides students with the necessary instruction (900+ hours) and hands-on training (125+ surgical cases) needed to sit for the National Certification Examination. These strict requirements translate into a weekly six hour lecture, clinical training in hospital operating rooms twice a week, and a lab class held at St. Francis Hospital on Saturdays. Despite this grueling schedule, nursing instructor Chris Nadamoto said, “Last year, 15 students entered the program and 15 graduated. There was no attrition, which is absolutely amazing.”

This year’s class of 15 students is comprised mostly of students with a medical background, who have opted for the surgical technician program due to its short length and lack of a waiting list. Students also see the surgical technician certification as a good stepping stone into the medical field.
Filipino club students promote literacy

Students of Honolulu CC’s SAKADA Club distributed approximately 1,000 books to Kapalama Elementary students during their lunch break on November 3. Club President Wanda Boyer and other SAKADA Club members helped the children with their selections as they left the cafeteria area with delighted smiles...and books.

SAKADA Club President Emeritus Manu Pagaragan (who now attends UH West Oahu) also attended and continues to participate in this program which he started. SAKADA Club members use proceeds from the food booth they operate at UH Stadium sporting events to purchase used books. They then set up book give-aways such as the Kapalama Elementary event to promote literacy and interest in reading.

Other schools to benefit from the club’s literacy work include Kahului, Kalihi-Waena and Moloka‘i Elementary School.

ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY UPDATE

The members of the UHCC System Self-Study Committee wish to extend a sincere mahalo to all those who took the time to respond to the self-study surveys.

Survey results are being analyzed by committee members and are providing the basis for “planning agenda” items to be included in the Chancellor’s Office self-study.

Draft copies of this self-study document will be circulated to all campuses during the Spring 2000 semester.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE PEKING ACROBATS
January 12 and 13, 2000, 7:30 p.m.
Presenting the world acclaimed Peking Acrobats in an entirely new show. The death defying thrills are non-stop! LCC Theatre. Call 455-0385 for information.

DAVID PARSONS DANCE COMPANY
January 22, 2000, 8:00 p.m.
Founded in 1987, David Parsons Dance is truly remarkable for its wit, athleticism and uncanny ability to capture the imagination and touch the spirit. LCC Theatre. Call 455-0385 for information.

VOC FEST 2000
Theme: A Career Odyssey. Feb. 19 and 20, beginning at 10 a.m. each day. Pearlridge Shopping Center Uptown. Free career information, displays and demonstrations including some of the UHCC vocational programs, in conjunction with National Vocational Education Week. For information, call Helen Sokugawa at 956-6203.

17TH ANNUAL UHCC EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Theme: Assessment - Running Barefoot Through the Data. March 3, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Leeward CC. Conference intended to share assessment practices and ideas on the classroom, program and systemwide levels. Opening session, break-out sessions and 2-hour colloquium session. For more information or a copy of the Call for Proposals contact Cammie Matsuoka at 956-3871 (see notice on pg. 11).
Sometimes parents are the ones to coax their children to follow their dreams; at other times, children prod their parents into learning something new. Wanda Aki and her daughters, Melissa and Naylene, have found that mutual support—and a little prodding—between parents and children can create a trilogy of success.

First, meet Wanda. A few years after graduating from Waimea High School, she married Fred, whom she met while working at Coco Palms Hotel. By 1989, she had raised five children and was the grandmother of 14. “Finally, I had time to relax and take a deep breath,” she recalls. But, her daughters weren’t ready to let her sit back for long, and prodded, “Go do something for yourself now.”

One day, Wanda accompanied her daughter, Melissa, on a visit to Kaua’i CC to find out about opportunities in the Job Training Program (JTPA). Wanda planned to wait in the car, but Melissa wasn’t gone long when she returned and said, “Mom, you need to talk with these people.” That day, Wanda and her daughter decided to enroll in Kaua’i CC’s JTPA program, a federally funded training program to help people develop work-related skills. Upon completion, Wanda continued in the credit programs at Kaua’i CC.

“The further I went, the more support I found,” Wanda remembers. “My daughters told me, ‘Don’t worry about Dad, we’ll take care of him while you’re away.’ Soon Melissa and Naylene were undertaking their own paths in higher education, so we continued to offer each other advice and support. My husband and three sons were also very supportive. I also received counseling and scholarships from Alu Like and Kamehameha Schools, and UH Foundation, Operation Kua‘ena.”

After completing her studies at Kaua’i CC, Wanda transferred to UH Mānoa and received a bachelor’s degree in Hawaiian Studies. It was there she met Dr. Lilikala Kame‘elehiwa, who helped guide Wanda in the direction of Library Studies. Wanda went on to receive a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science and is now completing her thesis for a second master’s degree in Pacific Island Studies.

With her MLIS degree, Wanda took on a challenging position with the Kaua’i Correctional Community Center, establishing their library, working in their law library, and acting as the Branch Liaison for volunteer coordinators. She is also the president of the School of Library and Information Science’s alumni chapter, 1999-2000.

She sees all of this as just another step in her growth process. “My experiences have reawakened my sense of who I am. My mother was a hula instructor and very knowledgeable in Hawaiian culture and history. Through my educational journey, I found I want to return to these roots. I would like to start teaching hula and help perpetuate our Hawaiian culture.”

Wanda and her daughters are still busily providing each other with mutual support. Melissa has four children, works for Alu Like, and is working toward her bachelor’s degree in business at the University of Hawai‘i Center at Kaua‘i CC. Naylene, who completed the culinary arts program at Kaua‘i CC, is employed at Wilcox Hospital and now working on her bachelor of science degree in food science.

“I feel I have come full circle in my life, and Kaua‘i CC played an instrumental role in that journey. I also see the College’s strong community support playing a role in my daughters’ self-discovery,” Aki attests.
After working a year, Moore realized she wanted more training. The first year that she began full-time studying for the Associate Degree, she was also working a full-time night shift. As she vaguely recalls it, she was “semi-comatose” by the end of the year.

The following year she worked part-time on weekends thanks to scholarships and a stipend. Thoughts of doing nursing in third-world countries came to mind, but she knew she needed more training.

Her struggles took her on to a Bachelor of Science/Nursing program at UH-Ma¯noa, all the while continuing to work, and then she started the Master’s program, where she completed the Woman’s Health Nurse Practitioner program and the International Public Health program.

So, did she ride off to far-away destinations? Well, she says that for her public health field study, she did go to Palau and helped the Ministry of Health write a five-year health plan. She realized she had been in school for 13 years and felt a little burned out and unenthused about seeing (and saving!) the world.

At that time Hawai‘i CC had an opening in the nursing division; she applied, and she was hired.

Now she had new challenges and discovered she really enjoyed teaching. Moore likes the opportunity to impact others directly through the educational process and indirectly with the students graduating as competent nurses and providing care to the community.

Julie Moore’s story is a constant reminder of the importance of our community colleges in providing the opportunity for people to succeed. When people say to Julie that they are too old to go back to school or that they can’t learn anymore, she tells them her story. By taking her education in small increments with a short program at Hawai‘i Community College, getting a steady job, and then continuing her studies, she was able to finish—eventually.
Kaua‘i instructor joins Hokule‘a voyage

In late October, Kumu Dennis Chun, a Hawaiian Studies teacher at Kaua‘i Community College and veteran sailor of five canoe voyages, flew to Rapa Nui, or Easter Island, where he rejoined the crew of the Polynesian Voyaging Society’s sailing canoe, the Hōkūle‘a. He is participating on the fourth leg of “Closing the Triangle: The Quest for Rapa Nui.” Chun also participated in the first leg of the voyage when the vessel departed from Hilo on June 15, arriving at Nukuhiva, Marquesas Islands, on July 13, 1999. Chun rejoined Hōkūle‘a for its fourth leg, from Rapa Nui to Tahiti, which departed on November 9. Estimated time of voyage: 22 days.

For the trip from Rapa Nui to Tahiti, Chun was joined by other veteran crew members including Nalani Kaneakua, a Kaua‘i CC Culinary Arts graduate, and Van Warren, a Koloa fireman.

The Polynesian Voyaging Society, builders of the Hōkūle‘a, was founded in 1973 as an organization to research the means by which Polynesian seafarers discovered and settled nearly every inhabitable island in the Pacific Ocean before European explorers found the ocean in the 16th century. For more information, visit their Website at: http://leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu/org/pvs/.

Car Show proceeds benefit education

In a ceremony held at Honolulu CC’s Automotive Mechanics Technology (AMT) facility, CarQuest formally presented the proceeds of the 1999 Car Show to three automotive-related programs at Honolulu Community College and the Employment Training Center.

CarQuest Vice President Warren Kaminaka and his father and CarQuest CEO Toshi Kaminaka presented a check for $15,000 to UHCC Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda, ETC Director Angela Meixell and HonCC Acting Provost Ramsey Pedersen at a ceremony in early November. The funds will be used for scholarships and equipment.

Warren Kaminaka remarked that the gift signifies that “CarQuest recognizes the importance of investing in the future through the youth of today.”

In addition to a monetary gift, CarQuest presented a gubernatorial proclamation in honor of Automotive Career Education Day to AMT and ABRP faculty. Above, (l to r) are Craig Ohta, Warren Kaminaka, Donald Frost and Clifford Yamashiro.

Snap-On Tools, which also sponsored the 1999 CarQuest Trade and Car Show, took advantage of the ceremony to present a gift to the AMT program as well. Snap-On Tools Field Manager Stacy Sly presented the Colleges with a state-of-the-art wheel balancing tool. Tsunoda and others extended their thanks to CarQuest and Snap-On for their generous gifts to the colleges and for their investment in the future of Hawai‘i’s car repair and maintenance workforce. As Meixell noted in the program, “By helping to train tomorrow’s automotive workforce, the generosity of these two companies and others who were sponsors of the 1999 CarQuest Trade and Car Show will benefit all of us in the Islands.”
Honolulu Community College offers many trade and vocational programs. In recent years, the Speech Department has noticed increased requests from these program areas for courses which enable their students to speak with alacrity and to communicate with their peers, supervisors, clients and customers. Even at the national level, various trade organizations had begun to mandate that apprentices and journey-persons develop a level of professional communication skills. The Speech Department at HCC quickly took up the task of teaching trades and technical students in the applicability and importance of communication in their trades.

HCC stresses to these students the importance of communication skills in creating a "professional" image and achieving career success.

Presently, there are two courses specifically designed for the trades: Communication 50 and Speech 20. Communication 50 is a dedicated course for the Cosmetology Department in direct correlation with their Pivot Point program. Speech 20, though open to all students, is primarily designed for the Automotive (AMT) and Autobody (ABRP) programs. The Speech department now collaborates with both AMT and ABRP to encourage their students to enroll in a dedicated section of Speech 151. This section contains components related specifically to the integrity of their programs of study. The Speech and Trades faculty agree that the students are capable of learning and achieving public speaking skills that will further prepare them for an AA or higher degree—now or in the future.

Each course stresses listening skills, clarity of interpersonal skills, increasing self-concept and verbal self-esteem, and application of achievement. The faculty involved with the programs were specifically chosen for their expertise in speech and communication, as well as their skills in teaching and communicating with the trades students.

In the past several years, Speech faculty members have observed that with increased verbal skills and abilities, trades students have shown improvements in interacting with each other. Their verbal responses to instructors have improved and their anxiety levels have diminished with actualization of learning and pride in their abilities.

Many of Honolulu CC’s trades students speak English as a second language. This factor, cultural backgrounds, and learning biases can affect their learning curve and problems in communicating. If these students receive clear models of speech and communication, language usage, word choice, and speech intelligibility, then improved peer relationships, increased oral attempts, and applications of learning are actuated. Motivation to succeed increases dramatically in these students.

If we, as educators, continue to insure that these students develop, master, and achieve these skills, the students have learned and we, the teachers, have taught to “RTQL8” (articulate) and communicate.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

RTQL8-Communicate: A professional profile for trades students

By Grace R. Ihara, Instructor, HCC Speech and Communications/Humanities

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION 2000
March 3, 2000
8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Leeward Community College

Assessment: Running Barefoot through the Data

A Call for Proposals has been issued and submissions are due to the Chancellor’s Office by January 19, 2000. In this year of campus self-studies in preparation for accreditation, assessment has been a vital tool. The Conference is a wonderful venue for sharing classroom, program, campus and systemwide assessment tools.

In addition, ACT Corporation is supporting this year’s event by bringing in presenters from mainland institutions to share their experiences in using the COMPASS placement test. So save the date!
The Fifth Annual Maui Community College Telethon for higher education was held November 20, 1999, and once again, volunteers and planners created a quality production that was enjoyed by everyone and will greatly benefit the college.

The Maui CC telethon is unique in the state of Hawai'i as a means to raise funds for the college. Flo Wiger, MCCI Dean of Instruction pointed out, “Maui CC is the only college in Hawai'i that has its own cable TV channel, (MCCI-TV, channel 12), so we can produce a telethon.”

The telethon began in 1995 as a way to raise private Maui CC education funds to offset the state's budget cuts. It has been successful, thanks to the many donations received and the growing community support for the event. This year's goal of $250,000 was reached and exceeded, enabling the telethon to yield more than $1 million in the five years since its inception.

At the end of the evening of the Telethon, Maui CC had received $436,780 in pledges. Final donations tallied $454,601, which included a generous gift of land by Moloka'i Ranch toward the new University of Hawai'i Center on Moloka'i, and a $10,000 donation from a fund raiser in Los Angeles which occurred during the same time as the Telethon.

The success of this year's event, according to Maui CC Provost Clyde Sakamoto, was due to the more than 250 volunteers who helped organize and produce the event, and the 1,000+ donations from the community. Sakamoto also praised Richard Kipper, a community volunteer and Chair of the MCCI Provost's Advisory council who co-chaired the Telethon with Flo Wiger.

"Richard's commitment to this event contributed greatly to its success. Our appreciation goes out to him and the rest of the volunteers and donors.”