January 25, 1995

Barbara Polk  
Provost  
Leeward Community College  
96-045 Ala Ike  
Pearl City, HI  96782

Dear Provost Polk:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting of January 9-11, 1995, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Leeward Community College on November 2-4, 1994. I am pleased to inform you that accreditation has been reaffirmed.

Noting that the major issues raised in the previous visit remain largely unresolved, the Commission asks that the College submit a report by October 1, 1996, addressing the two major recommendations of the team report. The report will be followed by a brief visit by Commission representatives.

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, but we do expect that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report three years after each comprehensive evaluation visit. Leeward Community College should submit the Midterm Report by November 1, 1997.

Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and a summary of progress on college identified concerns as expressed in the self study. Information about the Midterm Report is found in the 1990 Guide to Institutional Self Study and Reports to the Commission (pp. 19-20, revised 1991).

I have previously sent you one copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may be duplicated. The Commission expects that you will give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study.
The College conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of Leeward Community College.

The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during academic year 2000-01.

Finally, let me remind you that laws governing accrediting agencies and institutional eligibility for federal student aid funding require that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes. A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates. This accrediting association has for some years published its standard on institutional effectiveness (Standard 1D). We can expect increasing governmental oversight of the performance of accrediting agencies and their member institutions.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Petersen

cc: Joyce Tsunoda, Chancellor
    Governing Board Chairperson
    Ronald Flegal, Accreditation Liaison Officer
    Evelyn C. Wong, Team Chairperson
    Evaluation Team Members