

## UHWO Receives 7-Year Accreditation from WASC

*Rigorous review process reveals significant improvements on the Kapolei campus*

In an exhaustive 41-page document, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission detailed the results of a rigorous accreditation evaluation of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) in November 2014. It came with a letter that reaffirmed UHWO's accreditation for the next seven years, and removed the university's Notice of Concern status.

This was excellent news for the entire university community, which had been working diligently to address the areas of concern identified by the commission. They included addressing leadership turnover, a refocusing on the strategic plan, and creation of a student-centered environment on the new campus.

On its accreditation visit, the WASC team scrutinized each of these concerns and reported: "The team found that the university has made significant strides since its last visit as a result of strong, clear leadership from the new chancellor. It was gratifying to observe that there is a vigorous spirit alive on the campus with collegial efforts to move the university forward for the benefit of the students. Consequently, there is renewed focus on planning, specifically strategic planning, bringing together broad cross-sections of the campus community to forge partnerships, follow the path laid out by the chancellor, and enrich students' experience. This has resulted in a palpable sense of focus on students and their success."

Such high praise drew enthusiastic support from Ryan James Sommer, president of The Associated Students of University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUHWO). As the governing body that coordinates student services, conveys student concerns to the faculty and administration, and serves as consulted stakeholders in school-wide decisions, the ASUHWO played an important role in representing students in the reaccreditation process. Sommers worked with administrators, faculty and staff on several committees involved in the process over the past two years.

"In my experience, the administration has been extremely supportive of student input as well as taken steps on their own to be



Chancellor Rockne Freitas

the vice chancellors, and even our chancellor, who has sat down with students to help them with their issues and needs.

"As ASUHWO president, I'm extremely happy with the accreditation committee's decision. It mirrors everyone's hard work and determination," Sommer said.

"It was truly a collaborative effort by the entire University," said Chancellor Rockne Freitas. "Our faculty, staff and students have worked hard to create a student-centered environment. We also recognize that it is a work in

student-centered," said Sommer. "We see it in all aspects of our education, from the accessibility of our instructors, the counselors,

progress, and we're committed to continuing the effort of making the UH West O'ahu educational experience the best it can be for our current and future students."

The next WASC visit is scheduled for spring 2022, with a Mid-Cycle Review in 2019. In fall 2018, the University will submit an interim report on progress made on the commission's recommendations:

- Resource planning and development toward financial stability

- Growing faculty capacity
- Clarifying decision-making structures and processes
- Developing assessment systems and
- Strategizing distance education delivery

A copy of the March 6 WASC letter reaffirming accreditation may be found on the UH West O'ahu website at <http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/about-us/accreditation/>.

### Start Steppin' Comes to Kapolei

Kaiser Permanente is bringing its popular downtown Honolulu Start Steppin' health fair and lunchtime walk to downtown Kapolei on Friday, April 17, 2015 at the corner of Kamokila Boulevard and Kealakupu Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (the walk begins at noon). Registered walkers will receive a walking starter bag with a pedometer, and other awards for completing the 0.5-mile course. The health fair will feature prizes and activities for leading an active lifestyle. So put on your walking shoes and start steppin'.



### START STEPPIN' KAPOLEI WITH KAISER PERMANENTE

Corner of Kamokila Boulevard and Kealakupu Street (diagonally across from Wendy's).  
Friday, April 17, 2015 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (the walk begins at noon).

At Kaiser Permanente, we want to help you live well. Join us for our lunchtime walk and health fair in Kapolei. Walk along the designated route and receive a free pedometer and other healthy rewards at checkpoints along the way.\* Visit our health fair where our experts will recommend programs and activities that work toward a healthier you.

- KRTR radio on location with their Plinko game
- Free body fat and grip strength analysis
- Kaiser Permanente Sun Safety Prize Wheel
- Health information from American Lung Association
- Walk participants will receive a discount coupon to use at Camille's On Wheels food truck

Mahalo to our partners:

KRATER 96.3



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION IN HAWAII



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\* While supplies last.

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#### KAPOLEI PROPERTIES LLC

Kapolei Properties LLC is an affiliate of the James Campbell Company with a focus on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KAPOLEI, PLEASE VISIT:  
[www.kapolei.com](http://www.kapolei.com) or contact Steve Kelly at [stevek@kapolei.com](mailto:stevek@kapolei.com)

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