Dear Accreditation Committee Members,

Kapi‘olani Community College accreditation self-evaluation is a “collaborative effort” involving 125 volunteer faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Participation in the accreditation of Kapi‘olani Community College is, in itself, a higher calling based on our commitment to our students, to our profession, to our campus, and to our community. It is both our honor and responsibility to participate fully so that no stone is left unturned and no potential avenue for improvement is left unexamined.

By now you have met with your Standard Committees to review the importance of Accreditation and know that your voluntary commitment to the campus is very much appreciated. It is important to affirm that faculty, staff and administrator commitment is the cornerstone of our campus. It is through faculty that students become educated. It is through staff that a safety net is provided for successful student enrollment, retention, and persistence. And it is through administration that vision becomes reality. It is also important to affirm that we -- as teachers, staff and administrators -- are best situated to provide the essential analyses of campus issues. We possess the analytical skills not only to identify deficiencies in processes and outcomes but also to develop methods for improvement.

We are most familiar with the core functions of Kapi‘olani Community College and are therefore best placed to make recommendations that would improve teaching, enhance overall academic quality, and promote respect for principles of academic freedom and shared governance.

Participating fully in the self-evaluation process is our chance to define Kapi‘olani Community College’s direction and to shape its future. As we know from previous experience, self-evaluation can result in dramatic changes in organizational structure, personnel, program definition, financial structure and controls, allocation of resources, program content and quality, and student life and learning. Accreditation can also result in access to much-needed federal funding, a capital resource that is increasingly important to the campus as state tax resources decrease as a percentage of capital required to meet the campus financial needs.
As an active member on your Standard Committee, you are now being called upon to study vital issues and report on where we’ve been, where we are now, and where we need to go next. Your participation through your own individual initiative ensures that your voice is heard within Kapi‘olani Community College’s accreditation process.

Accreditation is, at its base, a mechanism for ensuring standards of academic quality for our students and, by extension, our community. We have an essential task in front of us, and we are confident that we have the right people in the right places to ensure a successful completion.

Thank you for your commitment, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for the results we know you will be reporting.

Aloha,
Ibrahim Dik
Steering Committee Co-Chair