Kathleen L. Yokouchi  
Executive Officer  
Hawai‘i State Board of Nursing  
P.O. Box 3469  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96801

Dear Ms. Yokouchi:

On behalf of the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges System, I want to thank the Hawai‘i State Board of Nursing for its continued interest and support of our nursing education programs at Kapi‘olani Community College.

The University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges including Kapi‘olani Community College (Kapi‘olani) and Leeward Community College (Leeward) continue to enable the University of Hawai‘i System to meet its mission mandates of putting post secondary education within the reach of every resident who wishes to enter the workplace and/or profession. The Community Colleges’ mission was re-emphasized in the Second Decade Report produced by UH’s Office of Academic Planning & Policy published in April 2006. It specifically designated areas throughout the State of Hawai‘i that required more assistance to improve the educational status of its residents. Furthermore, the University of Hawai‘i and State Legislature provided additional funding to community colleges to provide more outreach, services and educational opportunities to designated areas of need.

As Oahu’s only community college with a nursing program, Kapi‘olani Community College was asked by the University of Hawai‘i Community College System to deliver its various nursing programs to all areas of Oahu. The plan for an off-site campus located specifically at Leeward Community College was initiated in response to requests made by community residents and legislators in this area for nursing education to be taught closer to their homes. Notably, the population is significantly increasing in the Leeward area, and travel is expensive and difficult to the main Kapi‘olani CC nursing campus at Diamond Head.

Additionally, Wai‘anae was one of the designated areas that required more educational opportunities and service due to its low socioeconomic conditions and poor educational outcomes. As you are aware, Leeward is the closest community college to Wai‘anae.

Currently, the Kapi‘olani ADN Program continues to carry out its mission by preparing competent nurses to meet the health care workforce requirement for the island of Oahu on the main campus at Diamond Head. A joint effort is now being
engaged by Kapi'olani and Leeward to provide the Kapi'olani ADN Program at Leeward in 2009.

The Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated adequate funds to build nursing classroom physical facilities at Leeward. Furthermore, the Legislature allocated 10 full-time nursing faculty positions to Kapi'olani to meet the State's current and projected education and training needs to address the nursing shortage.

The University of Hawai'i Community College System fully supports the establishment of the Kapi'olani ADN Program on the off-site campus at Leeward. The Community College System is utilizing the Legislative appropriations to construct a nursing classroom facility at Leeward for Kapi'olani's ADN nursing program. Completion of the construction is expected to be in Spring 2009. The facility consists of a portable building that will contain one classroom, conference room, faculty offices, one nursing laboratory with 10 hospital beds, and one simulation laboratory and control room. This facility will be able to accommodate 20 nursing students and three nursing faculty.

Leeward Community College and Kapi'olani Community College have entered a Memorandum of Agreement that specifies responsibilities between the two colleges for physical facilities management, delivery of student support services, provision of technical and instructional support for nursing students and faculty, and priority facility use for Kapi'olani's ADN nursing program. I am confident that their collaboration and partnership in this endeavor will continue in order for ADN nursing education to be offered at Leeward.

Thank you again for allowing me to express our appreciation to the Board of Nursing for its regulatory work and support of our Kapi'olani Community College nursing program at the Leeward Community College off-site campus.

Sincerely,

John Morton
Vice President of Community Colleges

c: Manuel Cabral, Chancellor, Leeward Community College
     Leon Richards, Chancellor, Kapi'olani Community College