To: Erika Lacro, Vice President of Community Colleges

From: Sheila Kitamura, Health Sciences Chair
Lisa Radak, Health Unit Dean
Maria Bautista, Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
Louise Pagotto, Chancellor

The Dental Assisting Program at Kapi’olani Community College has provided education and training to prepare students to work in dental offices, clinics, and government agencies as both clinical and administrative dental assistants for more than 60 years. The program offers two certificate options: The Certificate of Competence (CO) is awarded after the first (Fall) semester and the Certificate of Achievement (CA) after the second (Spring semester).

The CA program is accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation. The CA graduates are immediately qualified to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board Certified Dental Assistant exam.

The program has one FTE who serves as Program Director and Clinical Coordinator, a requirement of CODA accreditation. She has also been assigned to duties as the Health Sciences Department Chair for the last eight years. Currently, all instruction is by lecturers.

3. Identify and review data

- VP Lacro has not made any recommendations as of the submission date of this report.

- **ARPD (2020)**
  The main action taken by the program to improve performance indicators was the omission of GEN ED requirements for the Certificate of Achievement. This has immediately resulted in much higher numbers of CA awards for AY 21.
  In addition, the program has completed the construction of a third clinical operatory and has obtained approval from CODA to increase its cohort size from 12 to 18 for AY 22.
  The Board of Dentistry has been exploring changes that would result from legislation that will require the registration of Dental Assistants by the board. The result of such a requirement will result in an increased demand for formally trained assistants. With the improved and enlarged physical space, the program is ready to respond to an increase in demand for the program.

- Lecturer costs for the Dental Assisting Program have been high since the Program Director’s primary role has been Health Sciences Chair.
Instruction is done solely by lecturers, two of who are C lecturers. Recently the program has brought on board one new lecturer, a successor to one of the C lecturers, who plans her retirement after AY 22.

- Lower enrolled courses comply with CODA standards (3-8), requiring teacher to student ratios of 1:6 for clinical and radiographic lab classes and 1:12 for all other labs. In addition, there is a standard of five students maximum for each operatory.

- UHCC’s Career Explorer reveals continued growing demand for Dental Assistants through 2028. The website shows the average wage for Dental Assistants at $37,773, which is what KapCC’s new graduates have reported.