

February 27, 2026

Mr. John Gotanda
President
Hawaii Pacific University
500 Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Gotanda:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 13, 2026. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Special Visit to Hawaii Pacific University October 28-31, 2025 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Hawaii Pacific University prior to the Special Visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Carolyn Jones, ALO and Acting Dean, CNCS. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's status with WSCUC.

Procedural History

A Special Visit scheduled in spring 2024 did not result in a finalized review team report for consideration by the Commission. Therefore, a replacement Special Visit was scheduled in fall 2025.

Actions

1. Receive the Special Visit team report that focused on: (1) financial sustainability; (2) diversified revenue streams; (3) new degree program projections; (4) windward island relocation; (5) faculty development; (6) development of new graduate degree programs; (7) role of faculty in curriculum design and assessment; (8) effectiveness of co-curricular programs; (9) support for educational outcomes; and (10) assessment of campus climate.
2. Continue with the previously scheduled reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2027 and the Accreditation visit in spring 2028.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Taking appropriate and effective actions to address issues raised by the Commission.
2. Strengthening the financial position of the institution.
3. Using multiple communication channels, such as listening tours and talk stories, to support engagement across the campus community
4. Creating a culture of nimbleness and innovation allowing the university to find solutions as challenges arose.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Review and refine the institution's mission and other statements of purpose and ensure academic programs are aligned with that mission. (CFR 1.1)
2. Continue to gather and learn from relevant data to refine enrollment projections. (CFR 3.4)
3. Ensure staffing levels are sufficient to deliver a robust array of student and academic services to improve undergraduate retention and graduation rates. (CFR 3.1)

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Hawaii Pacific University's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Hawaii Pacific University's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Hawaii Pacific University undertook in preparing for and supporting this Special Visit review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



A. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/so

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Carolyn Jones, ALO
Lance Wilhelm, Board Chair
Members of the Special Visit Team
Susan Opp, Vice President