

TO: Suzette Robinson, Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs  
FROM: Review team for Agricultural and Natural Resources Program  
Comprehensive Report  
DATE: April 7, 2007  
SUBJECT: Review of Agricultural and Natural Resources Comprehensive Program  
Review

### **Review Team Members**

Kekoa Willing, community member, assistant superintendent of King  
Kamehameha Golf Club and MCC lecturer  
Ryan Daniels, MCC Administration of Justice program coordinator  
Patricia Adams, member of MCC Executive Committee and Interim Assistant  
Dean of Instruction  
William Jacintho, community specialist in agricultural issues and APT in  
Agricultural and Natural Resources program

Three members of the review team, Willing, Daniels, and Adams (chair) met on April 2, 2007. Jacintho, who was ill on that day, was interviewed by Adams on April 5, 2007.

### **Mission and vision**

Nested in the Maui Community College mission statement is the mission and vision of the Agriculture program:

*We envision a program that will provide high quality instruction in agriculture, horticulture, and natural resource management with an emphasis on sustainability.*

The Agriculture program has carried out its mission by not only teaching college classes, but by also engaging in the following educational activities:

- Hosted over 200 high school students at an Agriculture and Natural Awareness Days celebration that included demonstrations, informational materials and discussions, and a variety of exhibits from industry.
- Hosted over 50 preschoolers for an educational day of activities facilitated by high school students.
- Secured a grant, in partnership with Lau`ulu staff, to support the development of a Hawaiian Studies/Natural and Cultural Resources degree.
- Worked with SLIM to plan development of curriculum in sustainable horticulture.
- Developed understanding of SLOs; used them in a framework that should help articulation and program revisions and development.
- Worked on possibility of developing a joint tissue lab with a Maui County high school.
- Facilitated graduation of several AAS students and certification of others by practicing strict adherence to course sequencing.
- Earned funds by sales for supplies and outreach that enabled the Agriculture department to maintain high quality activities in the classrooms.

- Assisted in the completion of a new brochure that is being used for recruitment.
- Planned ways to increase community awareness of program.
- Established articulation partnerships with two year and four year UH institutions.

### **Strengths of the program**

- Produces well prepared students for the workplace or further education.
- Internships are available for students; for example, Maui Land and Pine offered three internships last year.
- Maintains ability to make money and buy most of what is needed to improve the program.
- Visits by faculty and staff to high schools annually recruit and give information.
- Holds Agriculture Day every two years with large attendance.
- Attracts a large number of community members with regularly scheduled school and family activities.
- Receives a great deal of free publicity for MCC by newspaper coverage of such things as pumpkin patch activities.
- Educates large numbers of preschool children (bussed from schools) about agriculture and environment with activities connected to pumpkin patch.
- Attracts large numbers of community members to campus with poinsettia, pumpkin, flower, and naturally raised vegetable sales.
- Educates community about organically approved ways to raise produce.
- Partners with other disciplines, e.g. offering keiki IDs during Ag Day.
- Creates immense interest in learning about agriculture and land.
- Prepares students for a variety of interests, e.g. taking a class on one subject or preparing to run a home business.
- Holds interest of students by teaching with hands-on activities.
- Establishes strong connections with the community. For instance, APT William Jacintho is a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Agriculture and the County Arborist Committee and serves on a grant committee with NRCS. He is also the first cattle producer in Hawaii to be certified organic. Program coordinator Ann Emmsley is an active member of the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. She also is serving on a granting committee for Tri-isle RC&D.

### **Weaknesses of the program**

- Low enrollment caused by a number of reasons:
  - ✓ Low unemployment rate
  - ✓ Lack of student interest in a comparatively low-paying career
  - ✓ Lack of sustained student recruitment
  - ✓ Students taking only one class for information only
- High schools using agriculture classes for "dumping ground" for students who are not academically inclined or who do not have an ongoing interest in the subject.
- High school counselors steer students away from agriculture classes to classes needed for college.
- Workplace offers no advantage for certificates earned at college.

- Most students are employed full time and cannot take advantage of internships offered.
- Difficulties in offering courses that will meet the needs of working students who can take only one or two classes per semester.
- Difficulties in maintaining area so that it is consistently attractive. With few students, not enough help is available.
- Shrinking areas of good growing soil on Maui; being used for housing development.
- Main interest moving to landscape and horticulture, areas where an education is not a necessity.

### **Funding needs of the program**

Although the program raises funds for most of its ongoing needs, some needs do exist that are too large for this self-generated income to handle. One need that should be placed on the college budget is a 3 gang reel lawnmower. Without this, it is impossible to keep the turf display green and beautiful. Since turf management experts are needed on Maui, it is important to have the ability to train them correctly. Also, this unattractive turf is an eyesore within easy view of everyone who passes by.

**Estimated cost for lawnmower: \$40,000**

### **Review team conclusions and recommendations**

It is the recommendation of the review team that the Agriculture program carry out ideas and plans that are currently under development:

- Increase recruitment efforts in the high schools.
- Continue to develop partnerships with Hawaiian Studies department offerings, e.g. Ethnobotany.
- Pursue idea to enlarge presentations to grammar schools, including the idea of a traveling educational presentation that can be taken to different schools in a truck or van.
- Increase product sales and education on natural organic farming.
- Beautify grounds and then find a way to post a large sign on the street advertising the MCC Agricultural and Natural Resources Program.
- Raise morale and self esteem of agriculture students by supplying them with program t-shirts.
- Place lecture notes on power point and make CDs available to students so that they can study them when they are not working.
- Pursue the purchase of the lawn mower needed for beautification of grounds.
- Work with advisory council to review changes in community needs.
- Review program curriculum to ensure that it is meeting current community needs.
- Establish program SLOs, assessment, and mapping, using the Ruth Stiehl method.
- Continue to work with the SLIM program.