New Business Item 26-04
Introduced August 14, 2026

TITLE: Approval of a 6-Month Extension for State Approval Following AAQEP Accreditation Decision for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves a 6-month extension of continuing state approval for University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's (UHM) College of Education (COE). This 6-month extension will expire December 30, 2028.

UHM-COE's state approval is based on re-accreditation through the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), with a final decision expected by June 30, 2028. UHM-COE plans to meet AAQEP's established re-accreditation timeline via three self-study reports:

1. Initial Licensure (Quality Assurance Report)
2. Advanced Educator (Quality Assurance Report)
3. School Counseling (Initial Assurance Report)

Rationale/Background:

The procedure for renewing state approval is specified in HAR §8-54-23 and states:

> It is the unit's responsibility to apply for renewal of state approval and submit all documentation required for the board's review at least six (6) months in advance of the expiration of provisional approval.

UHM-COE requested that HTSB review documentation of the accreditor's decision for state approval within six (6) months after expiration of June 30, 2028, rather than before this expiration date.

A timeline with six (6) month advance submission of all documentation places the AAQEP site visit for UHM in Fall 2027. There are several major events occurring for UHM-COE at that time which will significantly impact workflow and create potential scheduling conflicts:

1) Seven (7) other COE non-licensure programs are being simultaneously reviewed under the UHM WASC accreditation procedures, including a site visit with a review team;
2) The COE is slated to physically move from its current location to new facilities across campus during this period;
3) AAQEP has indicated that separating UHM-COE's on-site visit (Initial Licensure and Advanced Educator) from the virtual site-visit (School Counseling) would benefit scheduling and prevent possible personnel overlaps.

UHM-COE's Accreditation Timeline:

- January 1, 2022 - UHM-COE granted state approval through June 30, 2028
- AY 2026-27 – UHM-COE writing teams develop three (3) self-study reports

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- Summer 2027 – UHM-COE writing team submits three (3) self-study reports to AAQEP
- February 2028 – IAR Virtual Visit for UHM-COE School Counseling program
- March 2028 – AAQEP Site Visit
- May 2028 – AAQEP Decision, Documentation Provided to HTSB for Review
- June 2028 – UHM-COE Current State Approval Expires, 6-Month State Extension
- December 2028 – HTSB Decision

Cost
There are no additional costs anticipated for this adjusted timeframe.

Submitted by: Dr. Jonathan Gillentine

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

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