

Statement for 4.2

As noted on the [UH Hilo Institutional Research Office](#) (IRO) website:

The Mission of the Office of Institutional Research at UH Hilo is keyed to the college's 10 year strategic planning goals in supplying faculty, administration, and staff—as well as various external constituents—with consultation, statistics, and analyses deriving from student/alumni/community surveys, and from live operational and/or archival data sources that reflect, support, enhance, and inform organizational planning & decision processes, policy formulation, and ongoing institutional effectiveness/learning outcome assessment activities. Internal research support is provided for academic departments, faculty committees, and administrative offices. External reporting includes providing data about the college to federal and state agencies, to our accrediting agencies (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and to various college guidebooks.

IRO, reporting directly to the Chancellor, works to achieve this mission and advance institutional effectiveness efforts by:

- administering a robust schedule of regularly-scheduled and ad hoc student and community surveys;
- developing specialized studies and analyses — through use of system-generated archival reports and/or campus-level operational data — that serve as evidence for the evaluation and enhancement of academic programs, and student learning / developmental outcomes; and
- supporting campus strategic goal attainment through disseminating the results of these activities, and bringing discussion and analyses of findings to bear on campus academic and student affairs planning and policy discourses.

These efforts are spearheaded by a full-time Director of Institutional Research and a full-time Institutional Research Analyst. Augmenting these efforts, the [UH System Institutional Research & Analysis Office](#) maintains a data warehouse and publishes [data tables](#) in the areas of admissions, enrollment, degrees awarded, staffing, financial aid, finance, and student success.

UH Hilo's IRO publishes a variety of [dashboards](#), [data tables](#), and [survey reports](#) that provide frequently requested data to internal and external audiences. In addition to these regular data reports, IRO also supports decision making by satisfying ad-hoc requests for data and analysis. As an example, in response to budget reductions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, IRO has developed reports and tools to: (a) project enrollment for student subpopulations and model tuition revenues for those projections; (b) project the impact of eliminating a program on course enrollment (e.g., how would enrollment in Subject X courses be reduced if Major Y were eliminated?); (c) prioritize academic programs based on their mission fit, size, growth, and student/employer demand.

IRO continues to shift from providing static reports (that push data to individuals) to developing interactive tools and dashboards (that allow individuals to more efficiently pull the specific data they need). The hiring of the Director of Institutional Research serves as evidence of institutional support for this shift.

Statement prepared by:
Bradley "Brad" A. Thiessen, Director of Institutional Research
October 2020