The University is committed to equal access and participation for all persons in academic areas and other programs sponsored by the University. Whenever requested, UH Hilo must provide academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids/services to any student who has a documented disability/medical condition, as stipulated by law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its Amendments Act of 2009) and the University of Hawaii Executive Policy E1.202 on nondiscrimination.

The definition of a disability, as covered by law, is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include, but are not limited to: caring for oneself, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, learning, reading, concentration, thinking, communication, working, the operation of a major bodily function such as immune system function, normal cell growth, brain, neurological, circulatory functions, etc. This does not apply to impairments that are transitory in nature and have an expected duration of 6 months or less.

Students with disabilities are responsible for requesting academic adjustments. Post secondary institutions are required to provide appropriate academic adjustments and auxiliary aids or services, as necessary, to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This does not include changes to curriculum or subject material.

Disability Services (DS) is the UH Hilo program that facilitates delivery of academic adjustments to afford equal opportunity and full participation in University programs for any undergraduate or graduate student with a documented disability. In setting necessary adjustments, information on the student, the environment, required tasks and available tools are considered. It is a joint responsibility of students and DS staff to work together on forming a student’s adjustment needs. However, in order to arrange appropriate adjustments, DS staff often consults with specific faculty and/or staff members.

All information regarding a student’s disability is confidential. Records will remain separate from academic records and will not be released without the student’s written consent. When it is necessary to communicate limited information about disability related needs to University faculty and/or staff, the specific details regarding a student’s diagnosis of a disability or medical condition will not be revealed.

Student, faculty and staff input on policies and procedures are welcome and important and suggestions may be made to the DS staff.

Student Disabilities: Contact Ms. Susan Shirachi, Director of Disability Services, telephone 933-0816 or 933-3334, or email Shirachi@hawaii.edu.

Employee Disabilities: Contact Mr. Jube Kuewa at jkuewa@hawaii.edu

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