MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric Martinson
   Chairperson, University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood
     President, University of Hawai‘i

FROM: Donald O. Straney
      Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

SUBJECT: Authorization to Establish as a Provisional Program a Master of Arts in Teaching, Effective July 1, 2012

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UH Hilo) requests that the Board of Regents authorize a new provisional degree, the Master of Arts in Teaching, effective July 1, 2012.

ADDITIONAL COST:

The proposed program replaces a post-baccalaureate teacher education program, from which resources will be reallocated. With this reallocation, the Education Department will have sufficient resources in terms of faculty, instructional technology and library and student services.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 1, 2012

PURPOSE:

The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is a two-year generalist graduate degree program with two purposes: it addresses the state’s teaching shortage by preparing candidates for the initial teaching license issued by the State of Hawai‘i through the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board, and it enables these newly qualified teachers to complete a master’s degree that incorporates their pre-licensure study.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

BOR Policy Section 5-1a (1) & (2) and Executive Policy E5.201 provide for the process to establish new programs at the University of Hawai‘i. The MAT program at UH Hilo will culminate in a Board conferred degree and falls under the policies and procedures identified above.

The proposed MAT program will attract students who seek to become teachers at the elementary (K-6) and secondary (7-12) levels and who wish to enter the profession having successfully completed master’s level study. Prospective MAT candidates will be graduates of bachelor or graduate degree programs in appropriate content areas as well as professionals with such degrees who desire to make a mid-career change to enter the teaching profession.

The program will contribute to a system-wide pathway for the development of highly qualified teachers in the State of Hawai‘i. With an online option, the MAT degree will complement rather than compete with other system programs. The program aligns with strategic plans at the campus, system, and department levels and addresses the annual need for new teachers in DOE, public charter, and independent schools across the state.

The curriculum is fully aligned with state and national standards. Program effectiveness will be assessed and evaluated through myriad efforts and multiple sources including faculty, cooperating teachers, field supervisors, graduates, employers, and a national accreditation agency. The curriculum will be delivered to elementary and secondary candidates via an innovative model combining face-to-face and online distance learning options structured in thematic blocks via a compressed schedule.

Anticipated enrollment includes a cohort of 45 candidates entering Phase I for the first four years of implementation, with a projected increase to 60 candidates in the fifth year. Assuming 20% attrition between Phase I (initial teacher licensure) and Phase II (graduate degree), 36 students are projected to qualify for the Master’s degree in the second, third, fourth, and fifth year of program implementation.

The UH Hilo Faculty Congress approved the MAT proposal on December 16, 2011.
ACTION RECOMMENDED:

The Board of Regents approves the establishment as a provisional program of the Master of Arts in Teaching, effective July 1, 2012.

Attachment - Master of Arts in Teaching program proposal

Faculty vitae and course syllabi available upon request.

C: Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Keith Amemiya