



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 27, 2015

Dr. David Lassner
President, University of Hawaii System
Bachman Hall 202
2444 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Heald College Students

Dear Dr. Lassner,

I was deeply saddened to learn that Heald College in Honolulu announced that it has ceased operations and closed its campus, effective today. Nearly one-thousand students have been affected and now, through no fault of their own, face a future of great uncertainty and doubt without a campus and school to attend.

The impact on the students' lives and futures is disconcerting. It's been revealed that so many students have made personal sacrifices to attend the school, including the story of one student who quit her restaurant job so that she could earn a degree to make a better life for herself and her son. Many of these students were also on the verge of graduating.

As the State's only public institution for higher-education, I support your efforts to affirm our commitment to making high quality education within reach by assisting these students to reach their educational goals. These students have earned valuable education credits and their dream to attain a degree in their respective fields is still alive.

I believe that we can provide hope and assistance during this difficult time and am urging that, in addition to its current efforts, the University of Hawaii to take prompt action in exploring options and opportunities within its system wide campuses to assist the hard-working, diligent students with transition into other institutions. I believe that the University should explore providing these displaced students with tuition-free summer or fall semester classes at its universities or community colleges while they reassess their future plans. These students could be required to register for classes after current and incoming UH students, so as to minimize any negative impact on those other students. This

opportunity would also enable neighbor island students who were attending Heald College to attend classes at home during their transition.

Please consider these suggestions along with other alternatives and actions being undertaken to provide Heald students with assistance; provided that such does not adversely impact the UH System and its students. Your assistance will help these students tremendously and move Hawaii forward in its economic and education prosperity. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shan Tsutsui', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shan Tsutsui
Acting Governor, State of Hawaii