



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

MAY 28 2013

Dr. Thomas Apple  
Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
2500 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Re: University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
OCR Reference No. 10136001

Dear Chancellor Apple:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the civil rights enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of Education (Department), implements Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age by educational institutions that receive Federal financial assistance. OCR is responsible for investigating individual complaints of discrimination and is also required to conduct periodic proactive compliance reviews of recipient practices to determine whether they comply with the laws that OCR enforces.

Compliance reviews are designed to address systemic issues and ensure that violations are readily identified and promptly eliminated. Compliance review sites are selected based on various sources of information, including statistical data and information from students and parents, advocacy groups, the media, and community organizations.

I write to advise you that OCR has selected the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (University) for a compliance review under: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §1681, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance from the Department. The University is a public education system that receives funds from the Department and is therefore is subject to Title IX and the regulations.

Specifically, this compliance review will assess whether the University has responded effectively to notice of possible sexual harassment and violence, including by examining the University's handling of complaints of sexual assault and other sexual harassment under its various procedures and its coordination with local law enforcement authorities; whether the University has adopted, published and implemented grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging sexual harassment and sexual violence; and whether the University has properly designated a Title IX Coordinator and provided notice of that designation.

It should be emphasized that at this time OCR has reached no conclusions as to whether a violation of any federal law exists. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is committed to ensuring that all students are afforded equal educational opportunities. We believe the information and any results from this compliance review will have a direct and positive impact on students at the University. We look forward to working with you in this review.

OCR's Seattle enforcement office will conduct this compliance review. Gary D. Jackson, OCR's Director in Seattle, will contact officials at the University within a week of the date of this letter to make

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*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

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arrangements for the next steps in the compliance review process, including requesting access to data and personnel.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 453-5900. If your staff members have any questions regarding the investigation, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jackson at (206) 607-1600.

Thank you for all you have done -- and continue to do -- to improve our nation's universities.

Sincerely,



Seth Galanter  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

cc: Gary D. Jackson, Director, Office for Civil Rights - Seattle