

High School of the Pacific

WASC Self Study



Focus on Learning

High School of the Pacific

Focus on Learning Self-Study

Submitted to the



Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Bruce A. Brown, President
J. Michael Breslin, Principal
Shaheer Faltas, Accreditation Specialist

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9707 Tsuchiya Road
Waimea, Kauai, HI 96796

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Preface

*The greatest exercise of the human heart is
bending down to pick someone else up.*

An anonymous quote used by ~ President John F. Kennedy

President Kennedy used this expression to inspire a nation into public service and selflessness during a tumultuous time. He was passionate about developing committed and capable citizen volunteers who would travel the world serving others. Peace Corps volunteers went out to many other countries including Micronesia getting involved in the lives of others, and in effect becoming their “brothers’ keepers”. Peace Corps volunteers believed positive change is possible and inspired Americans to help others through their examples. In doing so, we help ourselves.

High School of the Pacific was borne out of similar motivations. Confidence and hope motivate the school’s hard work, and commitment to others.

We at High School of the Pacific have learned that Oceania is worlds away, not just geographically, but socially and culturally. Yet we also see in our students reflections of our best selves. They are uniquely qualified and deserving of opportunities available elsewhere in countries of abundance. It is important to note that the education of these students is not just for their individual benefit. Rather, the benefit of educating these students expands outward from the individual students, to their families and communities, to the Pacific Island Nations, and the world. Educating people is good for humanity.

When asked to express goals for their children, parents and community leaders in Oceania unanimously agreed that an excellent high school education is the essential ingredient to prepare their young people for life. As stated in the school mission, our goal is to ready Pacific Island students for leadership in the global community, in particular, their home islands. We are aware and appreciative of our students’ backgrounds and abilities, and consider it a wonderful privilege to serve them.

The self-study process helped bring faculty, staff, administrators, board members, and students together in an in-depth inquiry into students’ success at High School of the Pacific. We assessed student knowledge and aptitude. We developed a school-wide action plan to embrace growth opportunities related to the *Focus on Learning* criteria.

There is much to celebrate at High School of the Pacific. However, we continue investigating opportunities for improvement, and we view our self-study process as one of these positive opportunities to reenergize, collaborate, and take focused action.