Windward Community College has experienced the strongest sustained growth in its history by combining vigorous outreach efforts, an aggressive commitment to develop its capacity for evening (+30%) and on-line course offerings (+435%), and a strong public relations campaign emphasizing its new 68,000 sq. ft. Library Learning Commons. From 2006 to the present enrollment has increased by 54%. From a baseline of 2007 the college has increased its offerings of introductory level courses by 51% to accommodate incoming students. The Enrollment Growth Funding Initiative, as well as steady increases in tuition rates has enabled this college to grow while maintaining its fiscal stability.

Simultaneously the college’s commitment to the UHCC System’s Achieving the Dream initiative has produced a 109% growth in the Native Hawaiian (NH) student headcount and this comprises 42% of the entire student body (from a baseline of 31% in 2006). Moreover the number of NH graduates during the time period has increased by 48% while the number of NH transfer students moving on to other campuses of the UH system has increased by 196%.

The college has been able to accommodate its growth by identifying an underperforming program that was dissolved after efforts to rejuvenate it failed. The stop-out of the Employment Training Center (ETC) non-credit program has enabled the reassignment of ETC personnel in support of for-credit programs. For instance the college hired new Veterinary Technology A.S. degree program faculty members by re-assigning vacant positions from ETC. Additionally the Counseling Department expanded by 50% by re-assigning ETC counselors. Finally, the college was able to accommodate its needs for new custodial positions in the Library Learning Commons by re-assigning vacant ETC positions.

The college eagerly anticipates favorable legislative action for the University’s BOR Biennium request for Performance and Enrollment funding initiatives. Fully funded, these requests would provide this college with $950,000 in year one and $1,131,000 in year two of the budget. This lump sum funding will provide timely support for initiatives designed to sustain the college’s growth.

The opening of the magnificent new Library Learning Commons has enabled the college to vacate two of its older buildings currently undergoing renovation. The college will realize a net gain of six new classrooms and a dozen new offices as a result of these renovations without the necessary furniture and computer/media equipment. Without this new funding, the college will have to re-allocate funds from within a base budget already seriously reduced.

Year two funding could be used to support staffing needs with faculty positions in the introductory/developmental Mathematics and English disciplines, as well as a Supplemental Instruction Coordinator. Shoring up these positions will bolster the college’s persistence rates. Additionally, the college is currently staffing its highly acclaimed Biotechnology Certificate program with grant funds for a Molecular Biologist faculty member and a laboratory assistant both of whom must be added to the permanent staff when grant funds expire. Additionally, the college needs to support the short-staffed Librarian faculty by hiring a Hawaiian Collection Librarian. Finally, the college needs a dependable source of funding for its equipment needs. The figure required to support these needs is $500,000 per year. The recent accreditation visit
has produced a formal recommendation calling upon the college to “...develop sustainable financial resources to provide adequate staffing, equipment, student and academic support services as well as funding for operations.”