END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HONORS COMMITTEE

In the 2015-2016 year, the Honors Committee members included: Ina Miller-Cabasug, Lena Low, Jean Maslowski, Michael KaczmarSKI, Wayne Lewis, Faith Kahale Saito, and Ann Abeshima. The Committee supported the Phi Theta Kappa advisors and the Alpha Kappa Iota chapter at Honolulu Community College.

In 2014-2015, Phi Theta Kappa/Alpha Kappa Iota Chapter was named a 4 Star Chapter and a Top 100 Chapter. This accomplishment propelled the chapter to a great 2015-2016 academic year with the chapter being named a 5 Star Chapter and again a Top 100 Chapter. From Fall 2015 to Spring 2016, 106 students were welcomed into the Alpha Kappa Iota Chapter at Honolulu Community College. These students were honored at the Fall Induction Ceremony on October 28, 2015 and the Spring Induction ceremony on April 28, 2016. All of these students exemplified the scholarship hallmark of Phi Theta Kappa, completing at least 12 credits at Honolulu Community College, having a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and having less then 15% of attempted courses with W or N grades.

This academic year was a special one for our Alpha Kappa Iota Chapter as it was the chapter’s 30th anniversary. The theme of the Fall 2015 Induction ceremony was “Celebrating 30+ Years of Excellence” with 41 students inducted. The theme of the Spring 2016 Induction Ceremony was “Graduation” with 65 students inducted.

Through their participation in Phi Theta Kappa activities, these students had the opportunity for personal growth, development of their leadership skills and providing service to the college and the community. In March 2016, PTK members attended the Regional Convention at Leeward Community College where they received several regional awards. Additionally, one PTK member was chosen to attend the International Honors Institute at Wake Forest University, North Carolina in June 2016. Chapter members participated in various service projects, including Honolulu Community College’s Out of Darkness (Suicide Prevention) Walk and Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful/Keep America Beautiful Honolulu Harbor Clean Up. The members are now preparing for next year’s events and a new Honor’s Study Topic, “How the World Works: Global Perspectives.”

This year, the Honors Committee worked on two issues related to financial matters. The Committee discussed the cost of participating in the Honor Society. It was determined that the $85 membership fee may be a barrier discouraging students from accepting membership into Phi Theta Kappa. Also, Honor Committee members discussed ways to encourage students to apply for more scholarships. PTK members may be unaware of scholarship opportunities or intimidated by the application process. Both issues are still being discussed and will carry on into the next academic year.