Dear Prospective FIRE student,

Thank you for your interest in the FIRE program at Honolulu Community College (HonCC). The program is beneficial in
- helping you to confirm your career goal of being a firefighter
- giving you opportunities to network with firefighters who are both students and instructors in the program
- providing you with a detailed foundation on prevention and suppression of fires

The FIRE program is an academic program and does not guarantee you a job as a firefighter. As a FIRE student at HonCC, you may have an opportunity to apply for the Federal Fire Department (FFD) in Hawaii through the Pathways Program created in July 2012 by the federal government. The Pathways program replaces the FFD Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

Go to the FIRE website for detailed information on the FIRE program. Go to HonCC’s website at honolulu.hawaii.edu then Academics then FIRE. Read over the course descriptions, brochure, graduation checklist, career map and technical standards. Also go to “Additional Fire Links” to read over the frequently asked questions (FAQs) and to check out other important information.

The FIRE program emphasizes reading comprehension, writing, computer literacy skills and applied math and science knowledge and offers some hands-on courses. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in FIRE requires completion of 63 credits, 43 of which are FIRE credits. The Certificate of Achievement (CA) requires completion of 27 FIRE credits. The graduation checklist outlining the courses that you need for the FIRE AAS and CA as well as proficiency is available on the FIRE website.

To qualify to take the FIRE program courses, you need to satisfy the Major Prerequisites which is based on your ENG and MATH placement. You need to place into Eng 100 AND place into MATH 24/50/53.

The general education courses (ENG, MATH, PHYS, etc.) for the FIRE associate degree are posted on the graduation checklist.

If you have completed comparable college courses at other institutions, go to the UH System Course Transfer Database at HonCC’s website and check to see if your courses are in the articulation database. If the course is not in the database, send course descriptions to itowon@hawaii.edu. If you are a firefighter, please check the FIRE website FAQs for information about college credit for FIRE noncredit training.
If you have completed courses that are similar, check FAQs for common substitutions.

The FIRE classes are offered via class instruction or distance education (DE) in the Fall and Spring semesters. For DE classes, you work independently on the assignments, may participate in online discussions and take proctored tests. You can get hands on experience in some FIRE classes such as FIRE 103 Medical Emergency First Responder, FIRE 152 Wild Land Fire Control Field Methods and FIRE 280B Fire Fighter I Lab. The Off Campus Program at HonCC may also offer FIRE courses in accelerated semesters that are 10 weeks and at a higher tuition. Go to HonCC’s website then to Site Index then to O then to Off Campus Program.

If you are interested in employment, each of the fire departments in Hawaii have different requirements for hiring as fire recruits. Check directly with each department for specifics. At the FIRE website FAQs, there is a list of websites for each department.

If you are interested in attending HonCC, your first step is to apply. Go to the HonCC website then Admissions. The summer session begins usually in May and general education courses such as English and computer science are generally offered. The Fall semester begins in August and the Spring semester begins in January.

If you are also interested in receiving Financial Aid, please check into it as soon as possible. Information is available at the HonCC website.

As for housing, HonCC does not have student housing. It is quite challenging to get housing. You can check for referrals at HonCC website. Go to Site Index then to H then to Housing.

Counselors are on walk in duty. Contact me for specific days and hours.

Contact me at itowon@hawaii.edu if you have other questions that the website and this letter did not answer.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Ito-Won, Counselor