The objectives of my sabbatical were threefold. They were to:

1. Learn about course design, delivery and assessment to improve on student retention, and student success in Student Learning Outcomes.

2. Research, develop, and improve on my effectiveness in teaching Econ 130, Principles of Microeconomics; and Econ 131, Principles of Macroeconomics, by integrating technology into my courses.

3. Prepare my students to meet the demands of globalization by traveling to China to learn about China’s growth and economic development.

As planned, I visited KCC and UHM to learn about course design, delivery and assessment to improve on student retention, and student success in Student Learning Outcomes. I attended workshops and discussed with teachers about approaches in course design, delivery and assessment. I attended workshops such as KCC CELTT (Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Technology), workshops such as “Teachers Talking about Teaching Online”, by Facilitator Satoru Shinagawa, and “Online Activities to Engage Learners” by Dr. Peter Leong of UHM College of Ed.

After technology training in the Summer 2006 through Web Fundamentals Tracks A, and B at Leeward Community College, I enrolled and completed Talent 101 online with Linda McConnell at the University of Hawaii, to learn about the philosophy and methods of using technology for teaching. It was interesting to learn about the various philosophies and methods that many experienced teachers are using technology to help students overcome obstacles of learning such as time, place, and learning styles. Advancement in technology has made education more accessible to many students who would not be able to continue their education due to obstacles such as geographical location, demands of their time due to jobs, family obligations, and learning styles. I have come to the conclusion that if we are able to help students overcome these obstacles to learning, we can improve our student retention and improve on student learning the Student Learning Outcomes.

In addition, I attended the 2006 Summer TALENT Institute for Talent 102. Talent 102 re-enforced the lessons learned in Web Fundamentals such as the basic tools in WebCT and to develop and manage Distance Education courses online.

Besides learning about WebCT, I researched into other management systems of teaching online, such as Discover Econ, and Page-Out from McGraw Hill Publishing. I have also experimented with the Page-Out management system from McGraw Hill Publishing.
I visited Della Kunimune’s Accounting 201 class on a regular bases. Della has been very helpful in sharing her teaching online experiences. I am grateful that she let me observe her Accounting 201 class. I learned a lot from the observations of her course, especially the student interactions.

I met with Brent Hirata, from the Educational Media Center once a week to solve problems that I encountered while creating the online courses. Brent has been most patient and resourceful.

From January to June 2007 I worked on developing Econ 130, Principles of Microeconomics; and Econ 131, Principles of Macroeconomics, into online courses. I wrote the syllabus, the course schedule, searched for media material, made learning modules, created online quizzes, and exams for the courses and put them on WebCT. I am teaching Econ 130 as an online course, and Econ 131 as a hybrid course in the Fall 2007.

During September and October 2006 I traveled to a number of cities in China, including Guangzhou, Jiangjiajie, Jiejaikau, Chengdu, Junching, Wuhan and Shanghai to learn about China’s growth and economic development. I saw how quickly and efficiently China transforms its countryside into major cities. I visited with the people of these cities to learn about their attitude towards changes and growth in their cities. I also visited the Shanghai Museum to gather information about China’s historical past. I am working on incorporating the information I gathered for globalization into the courses for Fall 2008.

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