UNIVERSITY *of* HAWAIʻI®

KAUAʻI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 1, 2016

Dear Faculty Senate,

It is the recommendation of the Subcommittee on the Purchase of an Assessment Software[1] (PAS) of the Faculty Senate that LiveText (LT)'s bundled Assessment Management System (AMS) and Learner Management System (LMS) package be pursued as the assessment software for Kauai Community College (KCC). The committee makes this recommendation after much vetting by both faculty and administrators, and the PAS urges Faculty Senate to expedite the purchase and implementation of LT in order to continue the momentum built in the vetting process.

The selection of LT is the culmination of 5 months of intensive research, investigation, demonstrations, and discussion, 3 years of Perkins-funded piloting of LT by the Culinary Arts Faculty across the UHCC system, and 7 years of building upon the strengths and learning from the weaknesses of our home-grown campus assessment methods and models. Prior to the striking of the PAS, the Assessment Coordinator, Institutional Researcher, and faculty representatives identified two possible assessment software systems (LT and Taskstream) and a team consisting of the IR and faculty representatives attended demonstrations of both systems at the Association of Institutional Research Regional Meeting (PacAIR) in October 2015. A report by KCC's Institutional Researcher shows that LT is used in limited contexts (including Culinary Arts) at all University of Hawaii Community Colleges (UHCC); Kapiolani Community College has used Taskstream since Fall 2015, and at the time of this report do not have enough experience with the program to provide a recommendation. Currently at Kauai Community College, 4 Culinary Arts faculty are actively using LT to assess all students in the program (19 this

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[1] The Subcommittee consists of Leighton Vila (Chair), Pat McGrath, Jeff Mexia, Laura Dillman, Martina Hilldorfer, Pua Palmeria, Terry Bruns, and Robert Conti.

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semester); 1 English faculty member is using it to assess 21 students in 2 classes; 1 HPER faculty member is piloting LT for HPER 108; and 3 Automotive Technology faculty are piloting the system for all AMT students (15 this semester). Faculty users have had positive experiences with the LT system and support functions.

LiveText and Traskstream were invited to demonstrate their software at KCC during Welcome Back Week 2016 and faculty feedback was <u>overwhelmingly</u> in favor of LT over Taskstream.

Table 1. Faculty Feedback for Assessment Demonstrations.

	Taskstream	LiveText
Number of faculty in attendance	41	51
Question	Likert Score ranging from disagree (1) to agree (7)	
1. I like _____'s assessment software.	4.0	6.0
2. I feel that _____ will be easy to learn.	4.3	5.5
3. I feel that _____ will provide adequate faculty training.	4.5	5.8
4. I feel that _____ will provide adequate trouble shooting services).	4.7	5.7

Based on product demonstrations, faculty feedback, and discussions with PAS members and their constituents, LT is the preferred product because it is flexible, offers better support , and is student centered.

A primary strength of LT is that it is a very flexible software. Faculty who have struggled with rubric-based reporting appreciate LT's ability to simply mark a student as having "met" or "did not meet" learning requirements. LT also offers many tools (Pivot Tables, Dashboard, data

visualization) that will help administrators, the Assessment Coordinator, and the Institutional Researcher compile reports (such as those needed for ACCJC Accreditation annual reports and Self-Study and for Annual Program Reviews), and bring student learning data to bear on planning decisions.

Perhaps the most impactful example of LT's flexibility is that LT has already modified its program to ease instructor reporting among KCC's current Culinary faculty. Culinary faculty had noted that toggling between students during live assessment in the practical kitchen was awkward, requiring the faculty member to go through at least 6 different screens of selections in order to switch from assessing one student to another. This feedback was provided to LT, and the interface was quickly re-engineered to include a drop-down menu of students among which faculty can easily select and switch, even in the midst of a busy practical examination period.

LT provides better support services than Taskstream. Per the demonstration, LT has committed to quarterly campus visits, and already hosts a live-person phone support from their Chicago-based call center. [M-R 7:00am to 9:00pm (CDT), F 7:00am to 6:00pm (CDT), and Sundays 12:00pm to 9:00pm (CDT), with extended weekday hours during the last two weeks of the instructional semester, when usage is highest.]

Yet another benefit of LT is that it is student-centered. LiveText's LMS provides students with instant feedback, and given the high-tech high-touch nature of 21st century students, LT's instant feedback is a valuable service. LT's ePortfolio (also included in the LMS) provides students with the opportunity to showcase their work to both instructors and employers.

The PAS has selected LT's AMS/LMS bundle as the best assessment software for KCC because of the reasons discussed above. The combination of the AMS and LMS will provide E-Portfolios for Students and Faculty; the ability for students to submit any type of evidence through their LT Accounts; immediate formative feedback by faculty to students; unlimited storage of student artifacts and assessment reports; college-wide access for CSLO, PSLO,

and ISLO assessments; Assessment Insight System (AIS) for planning and mapping of curricula; and LT Analytics for Reporting. If the college does not purchase LT, the PAS feels that the faculty will not buy into and use an assessment software and this non-use will (a) inhibit student learning, (b) stifle faculty's ability to improve their classes and (c) may exacerbate our subprime standing with Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The will of the committee is for the college to purchase LT's Assessment Management System and Learner Management System and implement the software as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Leighton Vila

Chair
Subcommittee of Faculty Senate to Purchase an Assessment Software
Institutional Researcher
Kauai Community College