MEMORANDUM

TO: Tetine Sentell, Interim Dean, Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
   Jing Guo, Graduate Chair, PhD in Social Welfare program

FROM: Michael Bruno, Provost
       Laura E. Lyons, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

RE: Response to the Mid-Cycle Report - PhD in Social Welfare (SWEL)

Thank you for your mid-cycle report dated May 31, 2022 which provided updates regarding: 1) graduate student recruitment, admission, and enrollment; and 2) graduate student retention, mentorship, and professional development. Regarding the graduate enrollment, it is evident that the 2017 recruitment and retention plan has been effective, and the program is no longer on the small program list. Clearly, the additional funding support for students is a key contributor, but it would be helpful to know if other factors are contributing to higher enrollments in the doctoral program. Regarding retention and time-to-degree, it appears that progress has been made to facilitate timely program completion.

We are delighted to hear that you embarked on a strategic prioritization process with the social work faculty. The mission of the program to promote social justice and global understanding and to enhance the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians and the diverse people and communities of Hawai‘i and the Asian-Pacific Region is commendable. We appreciate the efforts to support graduate student development internally with professional development workshops. It may be helpful to provide assessment data in relation to this work included in future progress reports. Coupled with the GPS (Graduate Student Professional Development Series) opportunities provided by Graduate Division, we hope that the doctoral students’ professional development needs are being met. Concomitantly, supporting and encouraging faculty mentorship and engagement with PhD students is critically important to the success of the program. Graduate Division can work with you to explore options to increase the number of graduate faculty members at Level 3.

Congratulations on the successes achieved thus far with the PhD in Social Welfare. We look forward to seeing continued growth in the program when we embark on the next program review cycle in 2024.