

School Files

Hawaii Real Estate Commission

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2009-2010 CORE COURSE AVAILABILITY

At its September 2008 monthly meeting, the Education Review Committee (ERC) approved the recommendation of the Education Evaluation Task Force (EETF), the Commission's task force group, that effective January 1 of the even-numbered year, beginning in 2010, Part A of the core course, which would be available about June of 2009, will be offered **only online**. Both Part A and Part B will be available through May of the odd-numbered year of the next biennium.

CE Providers should plan their offerings with the above in mind. When Part A of the 2009-2010 core course is available about mid-June of 2009, live classroom sessions may be scheduled. Announcements will appear in the quarterly Real Estate Bulletin to alert licensees that during the second year of the licensing biennium, the odd-numbered year, Part A of the core course will only be offered in an online format.

Based on statistics regarding the 2007-2008 core course, it appears that the vast majority of licensees who take the core course wait until the second year of the licensing biennium to enroll and complete the core course. The intent of developing the core course in two parts was to provide the legislative update to licensees in each year of the licensing biennium.

Only 372 licensees took Part A in 2007. Between June 2008, when Part B of the core course became available, and September 2008, 10,893 licensees took BOTH Part A and Part B. Of the 10,893 licensees taking the two parts of the core course, 872 took the courses online, and 10,021 took the courses in a live classroom format.

Between October and November 30, 2008 (the licensing renewal deadline), 5,418 licensees took both parts of the core course. Of this total, 1,552 licensees went the online route, and 3,866 took the courses in a live classroom format.

The 2007-2008 core course, Part A and Part B, will be available through May 2009. After May 2009, licensees reactivating their license must take four (4) CE elective courses as the core course will no longer be available.

PROVIDING ONLINE COURSES

By Abe Lee, Abe Lee Seminars

I have been associated with ARELLO as an online provider for courses that are written and serviced by RECampus (Dearborn Real Estate Education) and ProSchools. ARELLO stands for the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials. I started off with three online courses with RECampus and have added a few classes each biennium.

ARELLO recognizes long distance education courses for CE credit by approved vendors. As an ARELLO secondary provider, I was required to pay ARELLO every three years for each online course that I agreed to host. The Commission recognizes the ARELLO certified classes and charges a minimal course certification fee of \$25 for an ARELLO course, as compared to \$150 for each "regular" CE course. The more classes you host, the more you pay to ARELLO and to the DCCA. You have to decide if you want to invest the money and technical resources to provide online courses.

ProSchools works with Pacific Real Estate Institute to develop the Hawaii Real Estate Commission's ("Commission") mandatory core courses. Abe Lee Seminars agreed to host the CE classes when online core classes were provided by ProSchools. This partnering with ProSchools is available to any interested Hawaii CE Provider.

There are times when an online student will complain that they didn't pass the modules and were on the computer for hours or that they couldn't log back on, etc. I've discovered that most technical problems that arise with online studying are student-generated and not the fault of the service provider. We have to walk the student through the problem and most of the problems are solved with a bit of coaching. One online student complained about the complexity of the course and said that he would never take an online course again. I do not think this is a common complaint, however.

I have personally taken an online course to experience what my students are going through. It was time consuming but it was not that difficult. Online courses have become an alternative to the traditional live classes. Some students love the convenience of doing the online courses because they can stop the course work, go run their errands and come back and finish the courses.

There are more and more online course providers and you have to be selective in which provider you hook up with. The course provider needs to be experienced in the area of providing long distance courses and have the technical backup in the event of power failure or some other catastrophe.

One of the biggest problems with online courses arises at the end of the even-year, which is the renewal year for our Hawaii licensees. The true procrastinators are cramming to take the course(s) before the end of the year. The students expect us to provide the paperwork to the Commission on New Year's Eve and do not think of the time it takes to finish the paperwork on our side to certify the student's successful completion of the course work on time. Of course, the Online Continuing Education System alleviates the paperwork aspect, but in years past, this has been a problem.

The revenues generated from the online courses can be rewarding. You will not get rich from it but it does help to pay a few bills. Each school has a different tuition fee schedule. All schools should consider providing online courses. You need to have a website that is user

friendly and a link with the online course provider. I have a technical person who maintains my web site and I have a full time assistant who handles the prelicense and CE courses both live and online.

ARELLO has mandated that all long distance providers and instructors be certified. The certification courses cost \$800.00 and you must complete the course work in order to be certified to provide ARELLO courses. The last time I checked the roster, I was the only Hawaii teacher that went through the course work and got certified. All of the instructors that provide online courses must complete the curriculum. It was time consuming but I got through it. I felt that the courses applied more to actual teachers involved in online courses and it did not apply to me as a secondary provider. I learned some things that will help me with my teaching efforts.

ARELLO-IDECC REQUIRES COURSE INSTRUCTORS TO OBTAIN CDEI™

CDEI – Certified Distance Education Instructor

IDECC – International Distance Education Certification Center

As of January 1, 2009 instructor(s) associated with distance education courses being submitted for ARELLO and/or IDECC (re)certification will be required to have the CDEI™ designation. Instructors that have not earned the CDEI™ designation will not be permitted to be listed as the instructor for ARELLO or IDECC certified courses. ARELLO-IDECC requires a qualified instructor to be associated with every certified course. Email notification of this new requirement will be sent to each provider and instructor on file. Education providers should double check with course instructors to ensure they are aware of the new requirement. Instructors needing to obtain their CDEI™ credential can visit www.idecc.org for more information. Keep in mind it is not necessary to obtain the CDEI™ unless you are an instructor associated with an ARELLO or IDECC certified course and the course is being submitted for certification or recertification. For example, if a provider has one certified course that expires in February 2010, the instructor would not have to have the CDEI™ designation until February 2010. However, if a new course is being submitted for certification or recertification anytime after January 1, 2009, then each instructor associated with the course must have earned the CDEI™ designation.

The CDEI™ program is designed for those preparing to teach professional and academic education courses through a variety of distance education delivery methods such as the Internet, CBT and video-conferencing. CDEI™ designation provides an excellent credential and knowledge base for the facilitation of distance education courses.



CURRENT LICENSEE NUMBERS

The 2008 renewals are over and here's what the licensee numbers as of February 24, 2009, look like.

There are a total of 17,827 licensees, down from the prior number of about 22,372 (this number is taken from the DCCA's Geographical Report, as of 1/28/09. The Geographical Report number did not include a final run of all real estate licensees who submitted renewal applications.)

There are 5,312 active brokers, and 659 inactive brokers. There are 7,343 active salespersons, and 5,172 inactive salespersons.

REMINDERS – CONTINUING EDUCATION ONLINE SYSTEM

The rush to take required continuing education courses is over. Here is a list of reminders regarding the new Continuing Education Online System that debuted in August 2008.

1. Pursuant to the requirement found in HAR section 16-99-103, all course offerings must be entered at least 14 days prior to the offering date. The CE Online System will not accept course offerings if they are not dated at least 14 days prior to the offering date.
2. The CE Provider is still required to provide the CE Course Completion Certificates to licensees completing CE courses. This does NOT include emailing the link to download the certificate.
3. Pursuant to the requirement found in HAR section 16-99-98, licensees will no longer be able to receive CE credit for the same course. It does not matter if the course was taken in different licensing bienniums.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO HIRE COMMISSION'S TEST ADMINISTRATOR

A Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a test administrator for the Real Estate Commission was issued in early February 2009, with a response deadline of February 27, 2009. The Commission received formal responses from PSI and Pearson VUE, the Commission's current test administrator. A final decision was made on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

The current test administrator contract expires March 31, 2009, but an extension of June 30, 2009, has been put in place.

The Commission hopes to move toward a paperless licensing process in the next contract period with the test administrator. If the paperless process is approved, the paper certificates for the Prelicense Education Equivalency, the Equivalency to the Uniform Section of the Hawaii Real Estate Licensing Exam, and the Broker Experience Certificate may be eliminated. Instead, the test administrator will be able to store this information in its test center database, and licensing candidates will be admitted to the exam based on the computerized information.

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SCHOOL FILES

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