



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

March 25, 2021

Dear President Qiu,

The University of Hawai'i is honored to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Tsinghua University, one of the world's top universities, on this auspicious occasion of its 110th anniversary.

Our university was established just four years before yours, in 1907, significantly through the persistence of a Chinese-American resident, Mr. William Kwai-Fong Yap. We quickly grew to offer a range of graduate as well as undergraduate instruction by 1920, and shortly thereafter, we hired a *jinshi* scholar from China, Professor Tien Mu Wang, who taught some of the earliest courses in Chinese language and history offered in the United States. Professor Wang also hosted one of the first academic delegations from Beijing to Honolulu for a conference on education in the Pacific. A decade after that, our university inaugurated its Oriental Institute and began offering Master's and PhD degrees in Chinese literature and history.

Today our Center for Chinese Studies is at the forefront of the China-focused research and teaching activities of some 50 China specialists on our faculty spread across more than 20 departments in the social sciences, humanities, and professional schools. Today, we teach some 150 undergraduate and graduate courses about China and serve approximately 150 majors. We have had student and faculty exchanges with China since the late 1980s, and travel back and forth across the Pacific had been constant until the pandemic closed borders. Many of our 100 faculty members of Chinese descent hold one or more degrees from Tsinghua University.

We now enjoy a formal university-level partnership agreement between our institutions, formalized when I had the pleasure of hosting a visiting delegation from Tsinghua in November 2017. This was a particular pleasure for me personally, since when the APAN Conference was held in Beijing in 2000, I had the good fortune to visit your university and the CERNET project you have led. I have been honored to continue to collaborate over the years as universities throughout the world have worked together to lead the development of Internet technologies and their deployment to our institutions and communities for the betterment of all.

As is evident, our relationship with China and Tsinghua have been of great importance since our birth. We deeply value our relationship and hope that once travel restrictions are eased we will be able to resume more direct engagements among our faculty and students. In the meantime, we joyfully share in your celebration of over a century of achievement and wish you every success in the century to come.

Sincerely,

David Lassner
President

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