CTE and Hawai‘i P-20 Merge Efforts

The UH Board of Regents approved the merger of the Office of the State Director for Career and Technical Education (OSDCTE) with Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education. The change was effective July 1, 2021.

Under this merger, Hawai‘i P-20 will provide overall management and direction of the OSDCTE’s Perkins V grant as well as provide leadership, direction, and coordination for all career and technical education in the State. Hawai‘i P-20 will also continue to provide strategic direction for the statewide career pathways work, which has evolved to have the same mission, goals, partnerships, stakeholders, and much of the same accountability as OSDCTE. Merging the Hawai‘i CTE Office with Hawai‘i P-20 is an effective solution to create synergy and clarity for the education ecosystem in Hawai‘i, says David Lassner, President, UH System. “Hawai‘i P-20 has been successful in facilitating collaboration, managing large grants, strengthening pathways and effecting change, they are clearly ready to help us innovate, scale and sustain our career pathway programs across the State.”

Class of 2022 Receives a FAST PASS to UH

University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i DOE and Hawai‘i P-20 are working together to support the successful transition of Class of 2022 Hawai‘i public high school seniors to UH. For academically prepared students, the UH Fast Pass Initiative offers a streamlined admissions process and in some cases conditional acceptance directly from high school to UH four-year campuses.

Based on each students’ grade point average, UH Hilo and UH West O‘ahu will offer conditional letters of acceptance to their campuses, while UH Mānoa will offer a special invitation to apply. All three campuses will automatically waive the application fee and provide expedited processing of applications.

“We encourage our public school students to seriously consider our four-year universities,” says UH President David Lassner. “Higher education is the most powerful tool we know of to increase social and economic mobility, and the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, West Oahu, and Manoa offer a wide range of excellent and affordable programs.”

Eligible students will receive letters from the various UH campuses starting in November outlining the Fast Pass program and the application process. Students may receive multiple letters depending on their GPA.

- UH Mānoa: 3.5 GPA - invitation to apply
- UH West O‘ahu: 2.70 GPA - conditional offer of acceptance
- UH Hilo: 2.70 GPA - conditional offer of acceptance
Next Steps to Your Future Continues for Class of 2021

This summer more than 1,100 Class of 2021 public high school graduates were provided transition support to reach their college and career goals through the Next Steps to Your Future program, a joint initiative between Hawai‘i P-20 and the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges. Over 975 graduates received dedicated advising services, text messaging and one-on-one appointments with counselors. More than 58,000 text messages and 475 appointments were coordinated between students and their advisors throughout the program’s eight weeks. The UH Community Colleges also offered 19 free online Next Step: Career Exploration classes to over 290 students to help them develop their career plans and goals and encourage them to enroll in the Fall semester. New to this year’s program were the addition of 18 college and career focused webinars for students with topics ranging from UH student alumni panels to resume writing and navigating your first year sessions.

To support students in attending UH this Fall, more than 689 Next Steps participants were also awarded scholarships provided by the following funders: Central Pacific Bank Foundation, Chenter Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, UH Alumni Association, and various individual donors.

Based on post-survey results for students who participated in the Next Steps Advising program, students indicated that they felt significantly more prepared at the end of the program and had completed significantly more of their post-high-school plans. 60% of survey respondents also indicated that the Next Steps program helped address financial aid and scholarship issues which was a common barrier to college identified by Next Steps participants.

College enrollment disrupted for Hawai‘i’s graduating Class of 2020

The annual College and Career Indicators Report (CCRI) published annually by Hawai‘i P-20 showed a decline in college enrollment for the Class of 2020, with 50 percent of the class enrolling in college immediately after graduation, compared to 55 percent of the Class of 2019. Further analysis of the data showed that students from economically disadvantaged households and students who identify as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander experienced the largest declines in college enrollment over the previous year.

“This pandemic’s negative impacts were not equal across socio-economic and demographic groups. The good news is that this data is being used by public high schools and UH campuses as the basis for shared and immediate planning and action,” said Stephen Schatz, executive director of Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education.

View our April 10 CCRI webinar for more information on this year’s report.
Hawai'i's CCRI reports are continuously recognized by national organizations, including the Data Quality Campaign, Achieve, and the National Governors Association, as a leading example of collaboration between K-12 and higher education and for providing useful information on college readiness. The full reports can be found at: hawaiidxp.org/research/ccri_reports. The CCRI web metrics can be found at: hawaiidxp.org/quick_data/ccri/index.

Career Pathways Virtual Summit Success

Based on the success of last year's virtual events, Hawai'i P-20 continued its series of virtual summits this year for its Career Pathways initiatives including the annual Pathways Summit, Work-based Learning convening, Early College convening, and College, Career and Community Readiness series.

Annual Pathways Summit: Meeting the Moment: Collaborating for Student Equity and Resiliency: Twenty-four informative and dynamic sessions providing insights from industry, community and education leaders were offered during the two-day 2021 Pathways Summit, co-hosted by Hawai'i P-20 and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i. Held virtually for the first time, this year’s summit attracted an audience of over 550 and featured speakers from across the U.S. and Hawai'i.

The Pathways Summit convenes education and industry partners annually who have been collaborating, problem solving and supporting each other to create pathways that better prepare Hawai'i’s youth for college and career success. This year’s summit focused on building effective partnerships across education and industry to ensure all of Hawai'i’s students have the education and skills necessary to succeed in their career goals, and build resilience as our economy continues to shift and evolve post COVID-19.

The two-day summit concluded with virtual work-based learning mini-externships for teachers and industry partners. Participants had the opportunity to choose between four different industry sessions: Culinary, Digital Media, Natural Resources, and STEAM.
Hawai‘i Work-Based Learning Convening: In August, Hawai‘i P-20 in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i brought together education and industry partners to learn, collaborate, share, and support each other to prepare the learners of today to lead the careers of tomorrow. The convening featured national and local speakers, training, and networking sessions to create and re-energize partnerships across the state to expand access and ensure equity in work-based learning opportunities. Topics for this year’s convening included: Social Capital, Partnerships, Equity & Access, WBL Resources & Collaboration

Early College Convening
This two-day statewide virtual summit in October focused on exploring topics related to the Early College program in Hawai‘i. Participants from HIDOE schools, charter schools, and UH campuses were introduced to national and local speakers who shared strategies and resources that have been successful in developing and scaling equitable and purposeful Early College programs that have built bridges to successfully prepare students for college and career readiness.

College, Career and Community Readiness Series: Hawai‘i P-20 in collaboration with the Hawai‘i State Department of Education is hosting a professional development series this school year for educators and community leaders to support the ongoing efforts in preparing our local students to be college, career and life ready.

This year’s series which kicked off in September features sessions focused on improving one’s knowledge and skills to support students in grades 6-12 and includes topics on college application and financial aid assistance for students, supporting students in Foster Care, using data to increase FAFSA completion fates and connecting with the UH System career services centers.

Grant Funding Allows Windward Students to Soar Higher
Hawai‘i P-20 is managing a new, $2.3 million grant, awarded by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation in Spring 2021 to help increase the number of low-income and first generation middle and high school students in the Windward O‘ahu community to succeed in postsecondary education.

The Soar Higher grant, which is built upon the success of GEAR UP Hawai‘i, will support activities to build college and career aspirations, increase academic readiness, and aims to help eliminate achievement gaps among groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Since 2000, GEAR UP has served Hawai‘i’s low-income youth, impacting an estimated 35,000-plus students statewide.

“We know the best path to household stability runs through a two- or four-year degree. But it’s still far too difficult for young people to get to and through college. We hope this four-year investment will double the number of public school graduates in Windward Oahu that earn a degree or certificate,” said Alex Harris, vice president for programs at Harold K.L. Castle Foundation.

With the Soar Higher grant, the Windward community will utilize a coordinated, regional grades “6-16” approach to provide students with developmentally appropriate support to help them successfully complete high school, then enroll and persist in college. Windward area high schools will work with their feeder middle schools and Windward Community College to develop and implement a vertically-aligned, comprehensive college and career program that will provide counseling and support for students to explore career
interests, improve their academic preparation, engage in work-based learning opportunities, and ultimately transition successfully through the 6-16 pipeline to eventually attain their career goals.

“Our goal is to empower our students with the knowledge and skills they need to create their own postsecondary plan,” said Bernie Tyrell, principal of Castle High School. “We are grateful for the generous support of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation to continue this work that we have started in building career pathways and we will use these funds to support the implementation of our plans so that our students can succeed after high school.”

GEAR UP Media Campaign Promotes Two-Year Degree

To address the recent decline in enrollment to the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges among Hawai‘i’s public high school seniors, Hawai‘i P-20 launched a new media campaign focused on the value of a 2-year degree leading to a meaningful career and how students can get the support they need to help them succeed. The campaign encourages students to apply to the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges and directs students to apply.hawaii.edu. This comprehensive media campaign includes television, radio, social and digital media which will run through end of September on various platforms including KITV, KHON, Pacific Media Group, New West Broadcasting, Pandora and more.

Statewide Webinars Prepare Students for College

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Hawai‘i P-20 and its many partners continued to host virtual statewide college planning and financial aid sessions this Fall. The Financial Aid Information nights kicked off in August to provide students and families tips on how to pay for college and complete the FAFSA. These weekly sessions were hosted in partnership with the Pacific Financial Aid Association. Scholarship Workshops were also offered to provide information on how to access scholarships and grants to help pay for college. These workshops featured presenters from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation, UH Foundation and Sallie Mae Foundation. Starting in October, Hawaii P-20 and UH partnered to provide College Application Workshops to assist to seniors in completing their college applications and help them navigate their college planning journey. Recorded webinars can be found at: collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com.

GEAR UP KAN Supports First Year Students

Hawai‘i P-20 launched a first year program for Class of 2021 GEAR UP graduates attending a UH campus this fall called “GEAR UP KAN, or Ke Ala Na‘auao”, which means “pathway to education or enlightenment.” The vision for this program is for students to use their education as a path to honor their past, embrace their light, and use it to push forward towards a better future. The program is supporting students throughout the year in the following ways:

KAN Summer Institute: Students completed a four asynchronous online modules to help them prepare for their first semester.

Peer Mentor: Each KAN scholar has a peer mentor that helps guide them through their first year.
**Digital Communications:** Each KAN scholar is receiving important text messages throughout the year. In addition, KAN creates monthly podcasts that feature guest speakers who share about their first year journey and offers insights, tips, tricks, and hacks on how to survive the first year in college.

**Campus Connect:** Students are invited to attend campus-wide events that connect them to their college and other peers.


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**Virtual Data Summit Attendance Increases Three-Fold**

A series of five data summit webinars hosted by the Hawai‘i Data Exchange Partnership were held from August through December 2020, with topics ranging from Early Childhood to the Workforce. Moving the summits to an online platform due to COVID-19 increased attendance from 180 participants for the in-person summit held in 2019 to over 540 participants online. The online webinars also allowed Hawai‘i P-20 to focus on different parts of the education spectrum, allowing attendees to delve more deeply into their area of interest. 2020 webinar recordings and presentations can be found online here.

This year’s 2021 series kicked off in October featuring another set of presentations and will continue to focus on the importance of data in decision making and driving improvement, particularly during the pandemic.

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**Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Advances Statewide Literacy Efforts**

The Hawai‘i State Department of Education (HIDOE) was awarded a five-year, $49.8 million federal CLSD grant in October 2019 to expand upon ongoing work to improve the language and literacy development of Hawai‘i’s children. With an emphasis on disadvantaged children, including children living in poverty, English learners and children with disabilities, the grant provides funds to selected HIDOE complex areas and early childhood providers to create programs that advance literacy skills through evidence-based activities and interventions, including pre-literacy skills, reading and writing, for children birth through grade 12. The three key initiatives of the grant include student literacy, family literacy, and culture-based education.

Through a competitive process, HIDOE awarded K-12 subgrants to six complex areas, impacting 79 schools. Each subgrantee is composed of elementary, middle, and high schools to design and execute literacy programs specific to their schools and community. The recipients of the subgrants are as follows:

- Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area
- Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area
- Honokaa-Kealakehe-Konawaena Complex Area
- Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex Area
- Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex Area
- Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area
Similarly, Hawai‘i P-20, as the managing entity of the CLSD Early Literacy Project, selected and awarded six birth-to-five subgrants to enhance the early literacy efforts of early childhood providers across the state. In partnership with private and public entities, including Head Start/Early Head Start, IDEA Part C and Part B providers, private center- and home-based programs, and Hawaiian language medium education providers, the subgrantees will implement strategies to advance the foundational language and literacy skills in our youngest keiki and engage families to support their children’s learning and development. The six project leads are:

- Family Hui Hawai‘i
- Farrington Complex Area
- INPEACE
- Maui Family Support Services, Inc.
- Partners In Development Foundation
- University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Ka Haka Ula O Ke‘elikolani (College of Hawaiian Language)

The First 8 Years Report

Hawai‘i P-20 and the Hawai‘i State Department of Health (DOH) have collaborated on the annual First 8-Years Report that focuses on how early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities affect education and later life outcomes. By connecting data from DOH’s Early Intervention Section, which provides services to support the development of infants and toddlers, and data from the Hawai‘i State Department of Education, it can help create a clearer understanding of the long-term impacts on learning for children with disabilities. Here are some key highlights from this report:

- About 3.6% of Hawai‘i’s birth to two-year old population received early intervention services in 2019.

- Of the children who exited early intervention services in FY2019-20, 29% qualified for HIDOE special education pre-K.

- In SY2019-20, 8% (1,126 students) of HIDOE’s first-time kindergarten students received special education services.

- 73% of students who enrolled in Kindergarten SPED services in SY2019-20 also received Pre-K SPED services.

- Of the 13,588 students in SY2019-20 who did not receive SPED services in kindergarten, 4.4% (601 students) previously received EIS services.

Full report can be accessed at: “Link to be placed after given”