

TERM REPORT

Education

Office of the Governor
State of Hawai'i



Education

Overview

Governor Ige believes public schools are the foundation of our community and are great enablers of dreams, especially for those from immigrant backgrounds.

To encourage empowerment and innovation in Hawaii's public schools, Governor Ige's team developed a Blueprint for Public Schools in 2016. The Blueprint, which was developed with the input of over 3,000 community members, helped guide the Department of Education's strategic plan, moving away from a top-down, one-size-fits-all focus.

The Department of Education's Strategic Plan complemented the Blueprint. Under the new plan, the Department streamlined student assessments while ensuring meaningful measurement in student achievement and growth. Additionally, the teacher evaluation system was streamlined so it can be an effective and useful tool for professional development and improvement in teaching practices.

COVID-19 radically altered the education system, and as part of the administration's response, Governor Ige established the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund. GEER's grants were awarded to support innovative, hands-on, real-world learning that challenges students and teachers to look at issues in new ways. Many of the 31 projects involve partnerships between non-profits and public schools as well as state agencies, UH system programs, and businesses to address issues and provide learning that's meaningful to students. They range from STEM education to 'āina-based learning. The goal is to build on the Blueprint for Public Education, encourage innovation in response to the pandemic and set a course for education change and reform.

Prior to the pandemic, Governor Ige called for a universal, statewide public preschool system for every child in Hawai'i, and in 2019, the first-ever Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan was developed to provide a collaborative roadmap to guide public and private efforts. In 2021, the Legislature passed a measure establishing a new School Facilities Authority (SFA), and in 2022, the Legislature appropriated \$200 million to the Authority and Governor Ige appointed Chad Keone Farias as its first executive director.

The SFA, supports Governor Ige's and the Legislature's vision of expanded early childhood education. The act appropriates \$200 million to construct and renovate pre-kindergarten facilities in Hawai'i by 2024. The SFA's top three priorities include expanding preschool capacity statewide, building new schools for K-12 students in fast-growing areas and creating more affordable housing for teachers and others. Governor Ige also supported the expansion of Early College programs statewide. Now, students at more than 43 public high schools are earning college credentials tuition-free, and some have graduated with associate degrees from UH community colleges before finishing high school.

The Hawai'i Promise program, also advocated by the governor, provides funds for UH community colleges to cover the gap between what students can afford and college costs, after all federal and state financial scholarships are applied. This program makes it possible for everyone in our communities to have access to colleges so they can increase their career and earning potential. The Hawai'i Promise program is another way the state is investing in its people and changing the trajectory of Hawai'i.

Governor Ige believes Hawaii's teachers inspire students to reach goals and challenges they never thought possible and nurture their students to be leaders, innovators and problem solvers of tomorrow. In 2017 he personally got involved in labor negotiations to win four-year contracts for teachers and school personnel. This allowed teachers to be change agents who can give students across the state opportunities to succeed.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all aspects of life in Hawai'i, including public education. Schools had to physically shut down for public safety. In a very short time period, and under the unpredictable pressures of a health crisis, the HIDOE and University had to transition an education system that historically has been designed exclusively for in-person learning to one that supports distance learning for students and remote work for staff in order to maintain instructional delivery. The HIDOE continues to work closely with the Department of Health to ensure safe learning and working environments are provided for all students, teachers, and staff.

With ten campuses across the islands, the University of Hawai'i contributes to every aspect of life in Hawai'i. In addition, its research contributes to world-leading science, and it is recognized as a global leader in sustainability. In 2021, Governor Ige designated the University of Hawai'i System to lead and coordinate a broad

scale strategic investment effort to ensure that all of Hawaii's citizens have access to robust and reliable broadband services.

During his eight years, Governor Ige supported hundreds of major capital improvements on school and university campuses around the islands. Heat abatement at the public schools was particularly important, and he worked with the Legislature and Dept. of Education to cool 1,300 classrooms at 88 schools on five islands. More funding and heat-abatement improvements are to come.

Governor's Mission

To empower our public schools and university, focus on 21st century skills and learning, and ensure schools provide a healthy and safe learning environment.

Commitments

"Before education can transform them, we must transform our school system... I know that the best way to improve student learning is to empower schools and give those closest to our children the authority and resources to take action. I challenge the leaders of public education to stop issuing mandates from the state office and to focus on empowering schools and delivering resources to the school level."

Governor David Ige, State of the State 2016

"We need to cool our classrooms now, in energy-efficient ways that align with our commitment to end our dependence on imported fossil fuels... I am working with the DOE, other state departments, utilities and clean energy companies to cool 1,000 public school classrooms by the end of this year and thousands more each year through the end of 2018. We are going to get this job done."

Governor David Ige, State of the State 2016

"We have more Early College programs so high school students can earn college credits, saving families money and making it easier to graduate with degrees"

Governor David Ige, State of the State 2018

"This pandemic is changing Hawai'i, and every organization needs to reinvent itself in the post-COVID environment. We hope these emergency funds can plug gaps, provide incentives, and fund organizations and schools doing innovative things to both respond to the pandemic and set a course for educational change and reform."

Governor Ige's remarks to the GEER Advisory Group – June 16, 2020

Progress and Milestones

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2015

Working to change DOE's top-down bureaucracy

In Jan. 2015, the Board of Education amended its By-laws to shift one of its quarterly meetings to early evenings to accommodate more participation from the community; first meeting held in July 2015. Working to change DOE's top-down bureaucracy by creating a new blueprint for public school system starting with the creation of the ESSA TEAM, followed by holding a summit, then a series of town hall meetings. Allocated funds in the budget to increase the weighted student formula by \$26.5M in 2016 executive budget.

Hawai'i ahead of the President's call to reduce testing in schools

In 2014-2015, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) performed a review of all the assessments required by the state. Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi and Deputy Stephen Schatz listened to concerns from the field, including administrators and teachers, and held discussions with the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA). As a result, HIDOE streamlined the state requirements for testing students for this school year.

HIDOE eliminated the requirement for five tests and has proposed eliminating an additional required test. Actions to reduce testing for this school year (2015-16) include:

- Ending mandatory statewide requirement for three end-of-course exams for the 2015-16 school year. This means that the state no longer requires that high school students take a 60-to 90-minute test at the end of their Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and U.S. History courses.
- Ending mandatory statewide requirement for ACT exams in grades 9 and 10. This reduced testing for high school freshman and sophomores by four hours per student in each grade.
- Proposing to the U.S. Department of Education to eliminate the statewide requirement for grade 8 ACT test, which is a readiness measure in the Strive HI Performance System for middle schools. This would reduce testing of 8th graders by 3.5 hours/student.

Increased participation in AP exams

More public high school students rise in Advanced Placement exams. Hawai'i students at 37 public high schools have earned College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) Scholar Awards in recognition of exceptional achievement in AP Exams. At eight HIDOE high schools, 15 students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

The AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 20 percent of the 2.1 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

HIDOE high schools continue to show consistent AP participation and progress overall, reflecting the state's commitment to college readiness. In 2014-15:

- 5,631 students took at least one AP exam, an increase of 8.9 percent over the previous year;
- 8,270 exams were taken, an increase of 9.7 percent; and
- 3,383 exams scored 3 or better, up 8 percent over the previous year.

Over the past four years, the numbers of AP tests taken, and tests passed have increased by nearly 30 percent. Students are being provided more access to AP courses and are encouraged to hold high expectations for college.

Increase funding for Native Hawaiian students

More than \$30 million in federal grants have been awarded to improve Native Hawaiian student success.

Governor's Office community outreach

Three schools received free books from Scholastic as part of the National Governor's Association Reading Ambassador Program.

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2016

Significant improvement in student achievement on multiple measures

Data released this year from local and national organizations show that Hawaii's public-school students have been making gains on a variety of academic achievement measurements. The College Board, which administers the Advanced Placement Program, praised Hawaii's public school AP Exam results as a "significant increase." Hawaii's rate of growth in participants, exams taken and scores of 3 or higher outpaces that of schools throughout the U.S. combined.

The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2016 report showed that more than double the number of public-school students in Hawai'i are meeting college readiness benchmarks in English Language Arts, reading, and science, and nearly double the numbers for math on the ACT college preparation test.

Lastly, according to the College and Career Readiness Report released by Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, more of Hawaii's graduates took dual credit coursework and enrolled in college. These results show that efforts towards preparing students for both college and the workforce are getting results.

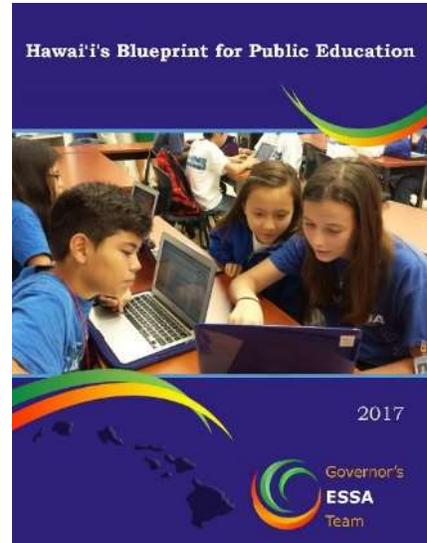
Hawai'i Blueprint for Public Education Completed

Hawaii's Blueprint for Public Education reflects the thoughtful, informed, and passionate voice of thousands of stakeholders from communities and islands across our state. It was developed as a result of an inclusive and transparent process to engage students, parents, teachers, principals, education leaders, state leaders, community leaders, and community members to create a blueprint that is organic, bottom up, and truly reflective of the collective wisdom of those who care deeply about our students and our schools. The outline includes input from over 3,000 people from communities around our state, whether it was at the Education summit in July 2016 or at the dozens of follow-up meetings. It truly reflects the hopes and dreams for a public education system that efficiently delivers results for the people of Hawai'i.

The Blueprint focuses on school empowerment. Specifically, this means allowing those who are closest to the students and understand best how they are motivated to make many of the instructional and programmatic decisions. Additionally, the Blueprint reflects the public’s desire for our schools to be places that value innovation and unleash curiosity and creativity in all learners.

The document shaped a vision for public education in Hawai’i to guide students, educators, legislators, labor, businesses, parents, and community members as we work together toward the common goal of fulfilling the promise of public education in Hawai’i. To accomplish this, the blueprint is organized around *Vision Focus Areas*, and *Design Principles*, centered around the theme of empowerment within our cultural context.

Each of the three Vision Focus Areas represents an area of reform to our current system. In turn, the Design Principles set forth theories of action for how major growth or change in an area can be realized. Each Design Principle is student centered and is presented through two important frameworks. First are the six outcomes of the framework of the Na Hopena A’o to provide a cultural context that is unique to Hawai’i. The second is a rationale for the Vision Focus Area to explain the sense of urgency and the educationally sound reasoning of the Design Principles that underpin it.



Vision Focus Areas		
Student Success	Educator and Staff Success	System Success
All student successfully empowered and prepared to be innovators and global citizens	All educators successfully empowered to teach, lead, motivate, empathize, and innovate to achieve equity and excellence	Statewide education system driven by innovation, transparency, empowering leadership, and Hawaii’s unique values and beliefs
Design Principles		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality earning learning • Global learner outcomes • Balanced assessments and testing in the service of student learning • Student empowerment, student voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System leadership • School and principal leadership and support • Classroom teacher leadership and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School empowerment • Empowering communities • Engaging parents and families • Innovation for learning • Learning environments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student wellness, social emotional learning, health/fitness needs • Opportunities for student success • Pathways for career and technical education • Pathways for multilingualism • Equity and excellence: eliminate the achievement gap 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous improvement • Transparency for resources and funding
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Extensive community outreach for BOE/DOE Strategic Plan

Over the past six months, the Department has engaged students, educators, parents, and community members as it reviews its joint Strategic Plan. During Phase I, feedback from 108 focus groups with an estimated 1,201 participants as well as 1,429 online survey responses were analyzed and compiled into a draft plan. Throughout August and September, Phase II, the Department and BOE hosted community meetings statewide to gather input on how to refine, rework or reject strategies in the draft plan. By the end of Phase II, the Department netted 1,144 responses. The public was invited to further comment on the revised plan online through Oct. 31.

Education dollars into classrooms

Committed more education dollars directly into the classroom than any previous administration.

Early College

More Hawai'i high school students getting a head start on college under a dual credit program with UH, HIDOE and P-20 Partnerships.

Expanded free meal programs year-round

The HIDOE expanded its free meal programs to ensure that more students have access to nutritious meals during the school year as well as throughout the summer. After launching a successful pilot program at seven schools last year, the HIDOE expanded the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) free meal program to 30 schools for school year 2016-17.

The program allows the HIDOE to feed more students during the school year for free in a way that does not increase the cost to the State. The Seamless Summer Option (SSO), a federal program that supports children with food service when schools are closed for summer break, was expanded this past summer to include 68 schools, compared to 59 schools two years ago.

Cooling the Classroom

\$100 million in funding was passed by the legislature to cool the classrooms, and HIDOE continued work toward energy-efficient efforts. Cooling projects covering 832 classrooms out for bid.

Reduction in open cases of Department Directed Leave (DDL) and Leave Pending Investigation (LPI)

HIDOE's Office of Human Resources (OHR) has updated its Investigations Guidance, on which all employees who conduct investigations have been trained; made additional investigators available from the state office; and made an expert investigator available to respond to questions and provide assistance. These changes have helped reduce the number of pending investigations from 63 at the end of 2014 to 27 as of Oct. 1, 2016. To continue streamlining the process, OHR also implemented new procedures in September that outline the criteria, procedures, and timelines for placing salaried employees on DDL or LPI.

Summer Reading Program

First Lady joined First Spouses across the county and served as a Scholastic Summer Ambassador Program for the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge. The program provided 100 books to Maunaloa Elementary on Moloka'i and 400 to Naalehu Elementary on Hawai'i Island.

Hawai'i Youth Challenge 2020

First Lady, together with the IUCN Education Committee, launched the Hawai'i Youth Challenge. All Hawai'i middle and high school student teams were encouraged to participate in the Hawai'i Youth Challenge as part of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The student-led projects continue today and are currently supported by mini grants operated by KUPU.

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2017

Early College funding secured

Worked successfully with the legislature to secure funding for initiatives such as Early College and Hawaii's Promise to ensure more local students follow a path to 21st century careers and realize their talents.

CyberStart pilot success

Governor Ige was recognized for bringing the CyberStart pilot program to Hawai'i students for job training and improved cybersecurity statewide. "Hawaii's scores were remarkable," said Alan Paller of the SANS Institute, which sponsored the program.

Cooling the classrooms

Exceeded promise to cool more than 1,000 classrooms with a \$100 million legislative appropriation.

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2018

First Early College Olympians graduate

12 Waipahu High School students became the first in the state to graduate with their associate's arts college degrees before they receive their high school diplomas.

K-12 Computer Science curriculum by 2021

Governor Ige continued his work towards advancing computer science at our public schools by authorizing \$500,000 for the HIEDOE to implement a K-12 computer science curriculum by 2021 and to offer at least one computer science course at all public high schools at least once every school year. He also joined the Governors' Partnership for K-12 Computer Science, a bipartisan coalition of state leaders working to expand access and increase equity in K-12 computer science education.

Increase in professional development opportunities for teachers

School empowerment professional development opportunities for Hawaii's teachers are increasing with Governor Ige's support through the movement of Title II funding from the Every Student Succeeds Act and his backing of School Design and Computer Science Innovation Grants, which dedicate education general funds to selected school projects. Empowering schools is also a continuing priority driven by collaboration with teachers, administrators, and community members, aimed at bringing more decision-making power to the school-level.

Student voice as an engine of change

Student voice has become an engine of change as schools solicit student feedback on such items as curriculum, teaching methods and best practices and adapt to better fit students' needs and learning styles. Student voice is helping to reshape course content, teaching styles, use of technology, outdoor activities and much more, to fully engage all students and make learning a more fun and dynamic experience.

Grand opening of Nānākuli library

New library built and developed by the community. Includes free internet wireless access and 32 computers.

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2019

Jumpstart Breakfast launched with Marcus Mariota

First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and the HIDOE Food Services launched Jumpstart Breakfast to encourage more students to eat breakfast with the goal of increasing participation at pilot schools by 1,100 meals per day.

Teacher Shortage Initiative

HIDOE launched a new initiative to help address Hawaii's teacher shortage by providing incentives for educators teaching in critical areas. A pay differential was established to increase compensation for classroom teachers in areas that have faced the most severe shortages – special education, Hawaiian Language Immersion programs, and hard-to-staff geographic locations. Aggressive teacher recruiting continues both locally and across the US. Local initiatives such as the Grow Our Own program, which provides tuition stipends and a flexible schedule with online courses through UH-Manoa for post-baccalaureate teaching certificates, and Troops to Teachers, which recruits military veterans for a second career in teaching, are both showing positive results.

Hawai'i Department of Education: 2020

Keeping students safe in a pandemic

Before COVID-19 reached Hawai'i in the spring, the HIDOE initiated its emergency response protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff. HIDOE leaders at all levels began meeting frequently to monitor the situation. It soon became clear that schools would need to physically shut down for public safety. In a very short time period, and under the unpredictable pressures of a health crisis, the HIDOE had to transition an education system that historically has been designed exclusively for in-person learning to one that supports distance learning for students and remote work for staff in order to maintain instructional delivery.

Schools worked closely with parents to minimize disruption. School facilities were equipped with safety equipment including plexiglass shields and PPE, and enhanced cleaning protocols and staff training. Distance learning continued in the summer with in-person learning provided for limited groups of students identified as the most vulnerable learners. Due to the increasing number of COVID cases near

the scheduled start of the 2020-21 school year in the fall, the HIDOE delayed the start of school and opened with full distance learning for most students. After the first quarter, schools began to transition to blended learning models, allowing students to gradually return to in-person learning in areas where transmission rates remained low and safety measures were enforced.

The HIDOE continues to work closely with DOH to ensure safe learning and working environments are provided for all students, teachers, and staff.

HIDOE leverages federal funds to provide learning devices for students

Based on survey data collected from families and schools, the HIDOE prioritized federal relief funding for student devices and connectivity to support distance learning statewide. Through the end of October, the HIDOE allocated \$11 million of \$31 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) provided for public schools and spent over \$8 million on roughly 16,000 laptops and tablets for students. The remaining \$23 million for additional devices were expended before the December lapse date. The HIDOE also purchased over 17,000 Wi-Fi network hotspots and nearly 34,000 laptops and tablets using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funding under the CARES Act.

‘Ohana Help Desk provides the nation’s first statewide tech support for public schools

In August, the HIDOE’s ‘Ohana Help Desk became the nation’s first statewide comprehensive tech support help desk for public schools, helping to address priority needs for extended operations hours and multilingual support for languages most spoken in HIDOE family homes, including English, Hawaiian, Chuukese, Ilokano, Tagalog, and Marshallese. This tremendous resource helped to ensure that all students could successfully connect with classrooms and continue to engage in distance learning.

More than 2.6 million keiki meals served during crisis

From March through November, the HIDOE provided over 2.6 million free grab-and-go meals to children 18 and younger statewide. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this program aimed to ensure all keiki received proper nutrition during distance learning through school meals regardless of their enrollment at public, private, or homeschools, or eligibility for free and reduced-

price meals. Hundreds of dedicated school cafeteria, support, administrative and food service staff worked tirelessly to keep our keiki fed.

Grab and Go campaign

To inform families about free meals, a Grab and Go advertising campaign was established. The HIDOE implemented the Seamless Summer Option program a few months earlier than scheduled, as approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs, to provide free grab and go meals for students during the extended spring break period and summer. The schools provided breakfast and lunch free of charge to children 18 years or younger, regardless of eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Telehealth Services Fill Critical Need for Students

Recognizing a gap in services during the pandemic, the HIDOE launched a health hotline and telehealth services in April to provide equitable access to health resources for students unable to visit school health facilities during distance learning. In partnership with UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the program provides vital health services to students at no cost and helps to reduce patient loads at hospitals. Due to the critical services provided through the program, this resource was extended through the summer and into fall.

Hawai'i Department of Education 2021

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funding for Innovation

The Governor's Education Emergency Relief fund totaling \$14 million was used to provide relief from the impacts of COVID-19 through innovation in education grants, college transition programs, and distanced learning capabilities. Of this, Governor Ige awarded \$8.1 million for 31 innovation grants to schools, colleges, and other educational entities across the state as part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund. Awards ranged from \$100,000 to \$450,000. The grants focused on:

1. Digital equity and access
2. Capacity building for educators, students, and parents
3. Program sustainability and lasting results

The programs that resulted from these grants are evidence that when adequate funding and flexibility to use these funds are provided, schools are able to develop innovative educational programs. Agility in program development is critical to allowing for necessary adjustments during the innovation process.

These projects applied real world situations to the learning experience, making it more meaningful and lasting to students. The grants also addressed critical issues such as teacher shortage recruitment, family support during these challenging times, and reached the underserved communities with much needed programs.

GEERs also created a framework for a comprehensive “innovation in education” grant system as it established a collaborative and community-driven selection process; a community of practice that strengthens networking among grantees; and a reporting system on outcomes from grantees that was shared on a public website ensuring a level of accountability.

A total of 201 groups applied for GEERs. Thirty-one grantees were selected through a rigorous process that included a written application and a presentation to a panel of educators, community stakeholders, and business leaders. The grant awards ranged from \$100,000 to \$450,00.

The grants resulted in 130 new programs and 42 new virtual programs.

Grant Highlights:

- A first-of-its-kind mobile sequencing lab provided unprecedented access to genome science technology within the K-12 classroom. Over 640 students who might not otherwise have been exposed to DNA sequencing while in school participated in hands-on lab activities and contributed data to the ongoing pandemic response.
- Four Family Resource Centers at Blanche Pope Elementary, Waimānalo Elementary, and Intermediate, Kailua High School, and Kailua Elementary were established to strengthen the family protective factors, improve the quality and accessibility of family engagement, and increase family leadership and decision making in the schools.
- Project-based learning programs were established for six grade levels at Kanoelani Elementary school, impacting approximately 775 students in

grades preschool through grade 6. These real world-based lessons were placed on a newly created website to begin a complex-area wide repository of lesson plans that can be eventually shared statewide.

- Art Make Art video series reached approximately 14,000 students providing art lessons throughout the pandemic. In addition, 200 Honolulu Museum of Art Packs were sent to classrooms across the state, reaching almost 5,900 students. It is anticipated another 400 Art Packs will be shared this fall.
- The SPEDucator program developed four new recruitment videos, resulting in over 7,300 views, and highlighted current special education teachers, students, and their families to promote the field of special education to positively change the narrative of special education. Four "SPEDucation Series" professional development seminars were conducted, supporting 111 educators across Hawai'i.

Conclusions:

- The goals of the program were reached through each of the programs established.
- Expanding the applicant pool to nonprofits allowed for a higher number of individuals impacted and widened the breadth of program offerings, often proving that schools alone cannot provide all the educational program needs for diverse learners.
- The subject matter with the highest number of grantees was in the area of agriculture and sustainability. Many of these programs were 'āina-based with strong cultural foundations.
- Many programs were innovative as they were created and attempted for the first time. They served as launching pads and will continue beyond the grant period.
- Collaboration is critical – learning is no longer confined to one school. Partnerships were established between schools, nonprofits, businesses, and colleges.
- Agility is the key in innovation as many had to adjust programs.

The bold steps taken for this program proved that innovation in education is possible if provided the flexibility to change course. A collaborative community allows for invaluable networking and increases idea development. Continuation of such a program is essential in meeting the needs of 21st century, global and diverse student learners.

Public school improvement projects make great strides

HIDOE completed or initiated hundreds of major Capital Improvement Projects under the Ige administration at public schools around the islands. These include new or renovated performing arts centers (Moanalua High, Farrington High, Kawananakoa Middle); new athletics facilities and upgrades (Kauai High, Maui High, Kalani High, Farrington High, Aiea High, Waipahu High, Mililani High Kealakehe High, Hilo High); new Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities (Kohala High, Stevenson Middle, Waianae High, Molokai High, Kailua High) and also major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings (Hickam El., Daniel K. Inouye El., Solomon El., Ewa Makai Middle, Campbell High, Mililani Middle, Ewa El., Waikoloa El. & Middle, Lanai High & El.), among many other projects. Entire new schools were also opened or are under construction, including Hookele Middle, Honouliuli El. and Kihei High, to accommodate growing communities. Hundreds of smaller improvements and maintenance projects were also accomplished each year, including heat abatement, roof repairs, electrical upgrades, and many others.

Thinking outside the box to provide healthcare for students

HIDOE has been thinking outside the box to better provide for students' health needs, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with health care providers, a statewide phone hotline was established for student health questions and telehealth visits, while individual schools like Jarrett Middle worked with local health care agencies to offer a mobile health clinic, and Nanakuli High & Intermediate, in partnership with local providers, established a new School-Based Health Center on campus to deliver health care services for students. The Department also partnered with the Departments of Health and Human Services to proactively test drinking water at selected schools for the presence of lead utilizing federal funding.

2022

Complex areas put forth initiatives to help increase student literacy, culture-based education and family literacy

In October 2019, HIDOE received a \$49,839,514 five-year Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant. The HIDOE awarded subgrants to six of its K-12 complex areas and contracted Hawai'i P-20, which awarded subgrants to six birth to

five early literacy projects. Now in its second year of the grant, HIDOE continues to focus on its three key initiatives: student literacy, culture-based education, and family literacy, as well as its project objectives to: 1) enhance birth to grade 12 literacy outcomes for our most disadvantaged students; 2) implement evidence-based practices with fidelity; 3) ensure subgrantees develop evidence-based literacy plans aligned to the state plan; 4) enhance data-driven decision making and; 5) engage families in support of their children’s literacy development.

HIDOE utilizes Hazel Health to prioritize student social-emotional, behavioral and mental health needs

In effort to prioritize and address the social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of all students, HIDOE is partnering with Hazel Health to offer a network of community-based mental health support options for students. Hazel Health is a statewide supplemental resource for schools to incorporate into their HMTSS array of services to help to meet the mental health needs of all students. Hazel Health offers no-cost, short-term tele-therapeutic direct services through a centralized system for all students statewide.

By engaging Hazel Health, schools will have the ability to serve all students regardless of insurance, immigration, or language. Hazel Health provides comprehensive services that range from preventable to acute mental health support. This allows schools to align these services with their existing multi-tiered system of interventions.

Fine Arts and World Languages standards updated

The Hawai’i State Board of Education approved HIDOE’s recommendations to adopt two sets of standards for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year: the National Core Art Standards and the Hawai’i World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages, which align with what is being used in schools across the country.

National Core Art Standards and Hawai’i World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages will succeed HIDOE’s former Hawai’i Content and Performance Standards III, which were implemented 17 years ago in 2005. The standards for fine arts and world languages are two of the last three subject areas to move away from Hawai’i Content and Performance Standards III, the third being physical education.

By adopting these new standards, the Department will be setting vastly higher expectations for and providing more rigorous, relevant curriculums to Hawaii's public-school students in fine arts and world languages

Hawai'i State Public Library System receives National Governor's Association (NGA) Workforce Grant

The project focuses on digital equity and literacy for the 21st century.

University of Hawai'i: 2015

Improved graduation rates at UH Mānoa

A campus-wide initiative to develop and implement a cohesive student academic support structure has resulted in an unprecedented sustained, multiyear increases in graduation rates. From 2010 to 2015, six-year graduation rate has increased from 48.6% to 57.1% while the four-year rate has increased from 17.5% to 27.9%. UH Mānoa has moved purposefully in terms of organizing and staffing, policy, and technology to improve historically low graduation rates. The initiative has had three core components that integrate and better utilize high-tech and high touch academic support delivery, in combination with student roadmaps (four-year degree plans).

Pāalamanui

Classes started on August 24th at Hawai'i Community College's new branch campus at Pāalamanui. Comprised of 24,000 sq feet of classroom space, teaching kitchens, and science labs, it offers not only Hawai'i CC courses, but also distanced learning opportunities with UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu, and UH Mānoa. The opening of this campus marked a milestone for the university, government, and community leaders who had been working for years to build a home for higher education in the West Hawai'i region, until now the only major geographic region without a permanent higher education facility.

Native Hawaiian student success

Campuses across UH system received over \$30M in federal grants to create and improve programs aimed at Native Hawaiian student success. Native Hawaiian students make up about ¼ of the UH student population. UH also recently

formalized a partnership with Kamehameha schools to help more K-12 students access and succeed in higher education.

Research and innovation

XLR8UH, the UH's Proof of Concept Center and Venture Accelerator, was established to invest in innovative ideas and provide a launch pad for commercialization of university intellectual property. Started in late 2014, the program is already on its third cohort of entrepreneurial teams comprised of UH students, faculty, and alumni. UH received \$425M in extramural funding in FY 2015.

Four-year campus accreditation

Full WASC accreditation was reaffirmed this year for all three four-year campuses.

University of Hawai'i: 2016

Dual credit Early College opportunities expanding and shown to increase educational outcomes

The University of Hawai'i (UH), working with P-20 Partnerships for Education and the Department of Education (DOE), has dramatically increased the offering of dual credit early college programs in Hawai'i high schools across the islands. Relying primarily on federal and philanthropic funds, the program has reached early critical mass this year and new data now demonstrates that this may be one of the most powerful tools to advance college enrollment and success. The collaborative dual credit initiative includes the rapid expansion of early college courses offered by UH faculty at DOE high school campuses through which students earn credit toward their high school graduation and a college degree. One national study predicts that by 2020, 70% of Hawai'i jobs will require some postsecondary education or more. Yet today, only 56% of Hawai'i Department of Education graduates go on to college.

Hawai'i also experiences a continuing gap in college enrollment by specific groups, including underrepresented ethnicities, low-income students and males. The percentage of DOE students taking early college courses has doubled in the last few years and based on the new data from the expanded programs, eighty-two (82%) percent of DOE graduates with college credits will enroll in college versus only fifty-three (53%) percent of those without college credit. At the same time, early college helps dramatically close the college enrollment gap for those in groups least likely

to enroll in college after high school. The Governor is supporting in his budget the proposal by UH and DOE are proposing to bring early college to every public high school in the state so that every Hawai'i high school student has access to at least two college courses before they graduate. This initiative will help achieve the Governor's plan to make Hawaii's education system the best in the nation and help prepare more students for college and 21st century jobs in a diversified economy.

Increased 4-year graduation rates and national recognition of Hawai'i Graduation Initiative

The University of Hawai'i (UH) has dramatically increased four-year graduation rates through hard and thoughtful work to improve student success. UH Mānoa reached an all-time high in 2016, with 32% of the first-time, full-time students who started college in fall 2012 earning a bachelor's degree in four years. This almost doubles the rate in 2010, when just 17.5% of the students graduated who had entered class 4 years previously. UH Hilo is also making strong progress. For 2016 the 4-year graduation rate was 18.7%, 5% higher than the previous year and more than doubling from a low point in 2011. Concerted efforts by staff, faculty and administrators account for this remarkable progress, including improvements in course scheduling, advising, and creation of degree pathways.

UH was recognized this year by Complete College America with their first ever President's Awards for exemplary work in Hawai'i on improving college completion. One award was given to UH for the homegrown STAR Graduation Pathway System, developed by UH Mānoa for the entire UH System, which helps students and advisors understand optimal paths to graduation even across campuses and majors and helps the campuses understand which courses are needed by students to graduate on time. And one award was presented to UH for its pioneering work on the "15 to Finish" initiative, which has now been adopted by over 30 other states. Timely graduation lessens the financial burden on students and their families and helps make higher education more affordable. The governor is supporting increased funding to the University in his budget, which will enable UH to continue to invest in efforts that advance student success, improve graduation rates and prepare more of Hawaii's citizens for success in the workforce and community.

Strengthening cybersecurity, innovation and competitiveness

UH West O'ahu (UHWO) was designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and UH. This builds on the prior recent designations of Honolulu Community College as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education and of UH Mānoa as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research. This exemplifies the comprehensive and system approach UH is taking to advancing cybersecurity education, research and community engagement around cybersecurity, one of the most compelling needs in the community and sources of high-quality jobs and innovation within the State. Late this year a Hawai'i team won the National Cyber League competition, one of the premiere national contests, with a team comprised of student enrolled from UHWO and Honolulu CC. Intensive community engagement and educational outreach over the past year has included large numbers of internships for students, more GenCyber summer workshops than in any other state for K12 students and teachers to strengthen the education and employment pipeline, and intensive multi-day cybersecurity exercises that collaboratively engage private industry, academia and defense sectors, this year including high school students for the first time. To conclude a great year, UH has just been awarded a 5-year \$5.1m grant National Science Foundation grant to establish a Scholarship for Service program at UH Mānoa. Cybersecurity is a priority for Governor Ige and is one of the core areas identified in the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, which is supported by the Governor's budget.

University of Hawai'i: 2017

Hawaii's education leaders set a goal to have 55 percent of working age adults (ages 25-64) earn a two- or four-year degree by 2025 (55 by '25). As of 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that 44 percent of Hawaii's working age adults held a two- or four-year degree. Increasing the state's educational capital is essential because according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce study (2013), it is estimated that, by 2020, 70 percent of jobs in Hawai'i will require some college education.

UH has adopted four Strategic Directions to guide the university's priorities. Interwoven in the strategic directions are two key imperatives embraced within the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (BOR) approved UH mission: a commitment to being a foremost indigenous-serving institution and advancing sustainability.

Progress towards increasing higher education rate of residents statewide

Significant contribution to the 55 by '25 goal by increasing the number of degrees and certificates awarded (include language on benefits of education) - Launched the 55 by '25 public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the state's educational goal to have 55% of Hawaii's working age adults with a two- or four-year college degree by 2025. The campaign included a media program (tv, radio, print and digital advertising) as well as a grassroots approach which encouraged over 8,000 middle and high school students statewide to pledge to earn a college degree. As of 2016, 44% of Hawaii's working age adults have a 2- or 4-year college degree.

Making progress toward increasing enrollment of STEM students

UH has made significant progress in increasing the enrollments and the number of STEM Graduates in the past few years:

	2010-11	2016-17	% Increase
UH Mānoa	720	976	36%
UH Hilo	143	183	28%
UH Community Colleges	126	541	329%

Implemented Hawaii's Promise to decrease financial barriers to education

Implemented Hawaii's Promise to remove the financial barrier to education at the UHCCs – In academic year 2016-17, with state executive and legislative support, UH implemented Hawaii's Promise, a scholarship program that enables students with financial need to attend the UH Community Colleges at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation (also defined as direct educational costs). UH received \$1.8 million from the state legislature to implement this "last dollar" scholarship program. The scholarship requires a student to apply for federal financial assistance. This scholarship which covers any remaining direct educational costs above what is not covered by federal and other grant aid. Hawaii's Promise program reaffirms the UH's commitment to afford all qualified people of Hawai'i an equal opportunity to receive a quality education.

Improving linkages to increase quality job opportunities

Created sector partnerships to improve linkage between education and workforce needs. Improve UH ability to assist students in finding meaningful careers – UH in collaboration with the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce created partnerships with businesses, government agencies and other business support groups in eight sectors to examine issues confronting those sectors. The partnerships have been able to provide training in specific areas of need as well as address other economic development issues.

Improved K-12 to post-secondary linkages through activities of Hawaii's P-20

Improved K-12 to post-secondary linkages through activities of Hawaii's P-20. UH facilitated the implementation of early college and other dual credit opportunities in over 30 high schools throughout the state using grant and foundation funds. In the 2017 legislative session, the State Department of Education (HIDOE) received \$1 million in legislative funds to support Early College classes in FY 17-18 and an additional \$1 million for FY 18-19. Produce the annual College and Career Readiness Indicators Reports (CCRI). These reports are published annually to provide a snapshot of college and career readiness at every public high school in the state. Hawaii'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. Housed at UH, Hawai'i P-20's Data eXchange Partnership (DXP) is a statewide cross-agency, longitudinal data system that links information from infancy through early learning, K-12 and postsecondary education, and into the workforce. Hawai'i DXP will help guide decisions and policies to improve learner and workforce outcomes for the benefit of our community.

Supporting and sharing knowledge to reach sustainability goals

Creation of the UH Office of Sustainability which functions as a backbone organization, providing support to the campuses to enhance the existing sustainability work under way, as well as coordinate capacity for campuses to share information and resources with each other to catalyze action to achieve our islands' sustainability and resilience goals.

- The office of Energy Management established to plan and implement coordinated initiatives to achieve UH Net Zero Energy mandate by 2035; master Energy Resource Plan to achieve this mandate currently under development.
- As of January 2016, UH offers three bachelors programs in sustainability studies at three different campuses, and over 250 sustainability focused or related courses across all ten campuses. There are also several sustainability related certificates being offered.
- Established Green Revolving Fund to track, harness, and reinvest savings from energy efficiency measures to accelerate implementation of energy and cost saving projects.
- Energy Management System fully integrated at UHM and UHWO in 2017, full integration of all campuses by end of 2018 will give OEM access to real time building level energy data so that energy performance can be continuously improved.
- RFP issued for Phase 1 of Energy Savings Performance Contract at UH Mānoa to accelerate implementation of Energy Conservation Measures was issued in 2017 and the contract to perform Investment Grade Audit of ECMs on the Holmes Hall chiller loop is expected to be awarded in 2018
- First net-zero energy classrooms constructed by HNEI at UHM in 2016

Hawai'i Innovation Initiative moves forward

Despite great strides in creating the necessary infrastructure at UH and successful outreach efforts, the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative was hindered by restrictive statutes that limited UH's ability to participate in technology transfer and commercialization activities. However, after years of diligently working and patiently educating the Legislature on the subject, these restrictions were lifted. On June 19, 2017, Governor David Ige signed into law two legislative measures to facilitate the transformation of discoveries and inventions generated by UH research into commercially viable enterprises that will broaden workforce opportunities for the state, help to diversify the economy, and will deliver innovative and useful products to the public. Additionally, these laws will keep UH competitive with its peer research institutions that have similar technology transfer and commercialization programs.

The first measure, Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017 (introduced as House Bill 425), exempts technology transfer activities conducted by UH from the scope of certain sections of the State Ethics Code, and confers the regulatory and oversight

responsibilities for such technology transfer activities to UH. Previously, the State Ethics Commission determined whether public-private technology transfer arrangements are permissible or prohibited under general ethic principles. The second measure, Act 39, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017 (introduced as House Bill 847), provides broad statutory authority to UH to engage in activities to support UH-based startup companies. These activities include participating financially directly or indirectly in start-ups, providing strategic marketing and networking resources, and offering hands on instruction and mentoring to the new entrepreneurs. Act 39 provides more express authority for certain programs that are currently underway at UH, such as the XLR8UH accelerator, and is patterned after a similar law for the state's department of business, economic development and tourism.

Together, Act 38 and 39 takes UH a step closer to realizing its full potential to contribute to the state and the public and allows UH to keep pace with its peer research institutions and maintain its competitiveness in attracting research sponsors and research talent.

UH is aggressively pursuing the successful growth of its research enterprise and increased commercialization of its innovations to help make Hawai'i a vibrant hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and venture capital activity.

In 2014, UH launched its first proof of concept center, called XLR8UH, and joined a growing movement of universities around the country turning to new approaches to commercialize its research. Unlike traditional business incubators that offer seed money to established companies, XLR8UH harvests promising research and identifies investors and businesses interested in the further development and exploration of its commercial viability.

A new innovation lab or i-Lab was opened March 2016 at UH Mānoa to expose students to experiences that involve innovation and entrepreneurship. The reconfigurable space is currently used for classes, workshops, lectures and events like start-up weeks and innovation challenges – and features rapid prototyping equipment like 3D printers and laser cutters that allow students to turn design concepts into working models. Later that year, another new innovation lab, called SPACE, was launched at the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at UH Mānoa's Shidler College of Business to provide students and programs with larger and more conducive spaces for collaboration.

Preparing for future cyber attacks

The threat of cyber-attacks is prevalent and costly. It is estimated that global losses from cybercrime will be \$400 billion annually. While preventative measures are constantly being initiated to be one step ahead of cyber criminals, the cybersecurity field is expected to experience a deficit of 1.5 million professionals by 2020. In an effort to help mitigate the effects of the dual threat facing cybersecurity experts today, ever increasing vulnerabilities to security infrastructure and the related shortage of information security professionals to combat these threats, UH is spearheading a new initiative known as CyberHawai'i. It is a partnership of local, federal, state, county, private industry, professional organizations and academia combining efforts to implement a "cyber-ecosystem" to defend Hawai'i against cyberattacks. Its purpose will be to coordinate and support cyber activities related to readiness and resilience, education and workforce development, economic development and innovation throughout the state. CyberHawai'i is aligned with CyberUSA, a non-profit "community of communities" governed by its members, established to enhance information sharing between states and to improve cyber resilience at all levels of participation – local, regional and national – all while connecting the cyber ecosystem of the U.S. and its allies.

UH continues to host the annual Gencyber Hawai'i camps and Po'oihe Cyber Security Exercises, created the UH Mānoa cyber range and developed various cybersecurity/information security assurance curriculums throughout the UH System, including programs at Honolulu Community College and UH West O'ahu. All three campuses are designated National Security Agency Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense & Research.

Safeguarding our students by improving university response to gender violence

Creation of the UH Office of Institutional Equity (OIE), a centralized compliance office. OIE's mission includes improving institutional responses to allegations of sex discrimination and gender violence across all ten campuses. OIE oversees UH's Title IX and VAWA efforts and works with UH and community stakeholders to ensure that policies, procedures, programs, and services are compliant, consistent, equitable, accessible and effective on all campuses, and fosters and promotes a climate of respectful and non-violent interpersonal relationships and safety on campus.

UH President David Lassner was awarded the 2017 Men's March Against Violence Distinguished Citizen Award, in recognition of his unwavering leadership in the University of Hawai'i system to support gender responsive training, programming and awareness in the interests of safety, freedom and equality for student success.

Increased Native Hawaiian courses to empower students

Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, our UH Hilo College of Hawaiian Language, has attracted and empowered many students, both of Native Hawaiian ancestry and those from other places, to explore the large wealth of knowledge, technology, innovation and resiliency present in today's Hawaiian communities in order to care for our island resources of the future. Working with programs and majors across the campus, Ka Haka 'Ula, is an integral part of UH Hilo's efforts to recognize and facilitate the pathway toward becoming an indigenous university.

University of Hawai'i: 2019

UH, other island universities, pledge commitment to sustainability

University of Hawai'i President David Lassner is among eight island college and university presidents who made collective commitments to advance sustainability during the Presidential Summit on April 11, at the 10th annual University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability. The commitments promote collaborative partnerships to seek solutions to island sustainability challenges.

Partnership provides cybersecurity lessons statewide

The University of Hawai'i helped train 170 students from across the state in cybersecurity in summer 2019. UH Information Technology Services, the Maui Economic Development Board, STEMworks and UH Community Colleges' advanced technology training consortium, the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT), partnered in GenCyber Hawai'i 2019, providing enrichment opportunities to train the youngest generation of cybersecurity professionals and teachers through summer camps.

New service gives students one place for tuition, fee info

Students enrolled in the 10-campus system will receive an automated E-bill reminder of what they currently owe in tuition and fees. The STAR E-Bill system was

developed by UH, which also created the nationally recognized STAR GPS system for class registration and management.

UH extramural funding tops \$400M

The University of Hawai'i attracted \$421.8 million in extramural funding in fiscal year 2019 (FY2019), topping \$400 million for the first time in four years. That is a 9.2 percent increase over the \$368.3 million in extramural funding UH brought in last year.

Hundreds focus on improving Hawaii's health workforce

The University of Hawai'i and experts from leading healthcare professions provided key insight to hundreds of stakeholders interested in helping to prioritize potential solutions to the state's health workforce challenges at a recent informational briefing with legislators.

Homebuying support program expands to UH employees

The University of Hawai'i announced on September 10, a new down payment assistance program with Landed to aimed at helping UH faculty and staff buy homes in Hawai'i.

UH campuses rank among best in nation, world

UH Mānoa is ranked 79 as a top U.S. public school, 166 among national universities and 177 as a best value school. In diversity, it is tied for the seventh highest value among national universities, and is 134 among top performers in social mobility, a new category based on two ranking factors pertaining to enrolling and graduating high proportions of students who were awarded Pell Grants.

Top scientific publication spotlights UH cancer discoveries

The discovery was made by UH Cancer Center researcher and the study's lead author, Michele Carbone, and collaborators that specific gene mutations cause mesothelioma and other cancers, and how asbestos and the mutation of the BAP1 gene interact in this process. "Mesothelioma: Scientific clues for prevention, diagnosis, and therapy" was highlighted in the peer-reviewed journal with the highest impact factor among all disciplines of science and medicine.

Sinclair Library to become center for student success

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa plans to transform Sinclair Library into a state-of-the-art student success center to improve the student experience by providing easy access to academic advising, campus services and modern spaces for studying and collaboration.

UH student-developed 3D energy planning tool generates national buzz

An interactive 3D projection-mapped model of O'ahu developed by University of Hawai'i at Mānoa students, showing layers of data for the state's plan to run on 100-percent renewable energy by 2045, generated lots of buzz at a national energy conference in February in Washington, D.C.

UH Mānoa groups, agencies team up to tackle impacts of climate change

Experts predict 20 percent of Hawaii's coastal roads will be impacted by climate change in the next 50 years. Recent hurricanes, tsunamis and other natural disasters have demonstrated how vulnerable the state is when these events occur. To address these natural disasters and climate change issues, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Engineering faculty and graduate students are working with campus departments and government and industry partners to determine how these factors will affect Hawai'i over the next several decades.

Ebola vaccine developed by UH can withstand high heat

In his scientific article, "Thermostable Ebola virus vaccine formulations lyophilized in the presence of aluminum hydroxide," Axel Lehrer demonstrates his vaccine can sustain immunogenicity, the ability to provoke an immune response in the body, after being stored at 104° F for up to 12 weeks.

Esports as a Career? UH Mānoa is helping students prepare for it

Leading the charge in this arena is Nyle Sky Kauwelo, a graduate assistant in the School of Communications in the College of Social Sciences. His course, Esports and Society, is the first of its kind at UH Mānoa and covers the rising popularity and significance of this growing industry. His students study the emerging role of esports as a new form of mainstream entertainment, including topics such as: general foundational concepts, structure of esports and competitions, evaluation of

new technologies arising in this field, and gender as well as ethical issues and concerns.

Place-based management can protect coral reefs in a changing climate

Researchers from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and state Department of Health have developed and applied a new technology in Hawai'i that identifies where coral reef ecosystems and associated fisheries are vulnerable to human activities and where to focus management actions to minimize these impacts.

UH Mānoa becomes featured NSA campus

The National Security Agency (NSA) acknowledged the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as one of its select featured college campuses on September 3, becoming one of just four campuses nationwide. The official start to the program was September 4.

Navy to launch ROTC program at UH Mānoa

U.S. Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer has approved the creation of a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

U.S. Coast Guard, UH Mānoa sign agreement increasing student opportunities

The U.S. Coast Guard signed a memorandum of agreement with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in July as part of the Coast Guard's Minority-Serving Institutions Partnership Program for increased student opportunities.

Breakthrough: UH team successfully locates incoming asteroid

For the first time, astronomers at the University of Hawai'i have demonstrated that the UH ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System) and Pan-STARRS (Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System) survey telescopes can provide sufficient warning to move people away from the impact site of an incoming asteroid. The telescopes detected a small asteroid prior to it entering the Earth's atmosphere near Puerto Rico on the morning of June 22, 2019.

UH Mānoa graduate programs receive national recognition

Some of the nation's best graduate schools and programs are at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, according to U.S. News and World Report's 2020 ranking. The John A. Burns School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, William S. Richardson School of Law, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, Shidler College of Business, College of Education, College of Engineering and College of Social Sciences were all included in the ranking released today.

Climate warming promises more frequent extreme El Niño events

A new study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science by a team of international climate researchers led by Bin Wang of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa International Pacific Research Center (IPRC), answers that question, "How will climate change affect the generation of strong El Niño events?". Results show that since the late 1970's, climate change effects have shifted the El Niño onset location from the eastern Pacific to the western Pacific and caused more frequent extreme El Niño events. Continued warming over the western Pacific warm pool promises conditions that will trigger more extreme events in the future.

Motivated undergrads get a head start on master's program

The Bachelor's and Master's (BAM) degree pathway are accelerated programs that encourage high-performing UH Mānoa undergraduate students to commit to a master's program early and take graduate-level classes in their senior year. This gives them a head start on their graduate studies, which reduces the overall amount of time spent on their degrees. In most cases BAM students can graduate with both degrees in five years. There are currently 14 BAM pathways, with plans to increase and expand to other disciplines. UH Mānoa graduate programs have consistently received national recognition including high rankings in the 2019 *U.S. News and World Report*.

UH Hilo students grow exotic rice in East Hawai'i

Horticultural students at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo are conducting important trials on the potential economic viability of growing exotic rice cultivars in East Hawai'i. The broad objective of the project, which runs through June 2020, is to evaluate the performance of selected exotic rice varieties cultivated in Hawai'i. The

project is funded by the County of Hawai'i via the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council.

UH Hilo aquaculture center partners with Honolulu CC to improve water quality at Sand Island

Native oysters cultured at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resource Center will be used to improve water clarity and quality at Sand Island, Honolulu.

New UH Hilo chancellor aims to transform students' lives, move region forward

Bonnie D. Irwin took the reins of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as chancellor on July 1, 2019, amid a traditional Hawaiian appointment ceremony that included the blowing of pū (shell), hula and an offering of special water.

Construction on Academy for Creative Media Building at UH West O'ahu Begins

Ground was broken in January for an Academy for Creative Media building at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu.

UH West O'ahu offers new degree programs, including first for STEM

The University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu is unveiling new academic offerings—including degrees in Creative Media and Natural Sciences—to address the state's workforce needs, starting in fall 2019.

UH West O'ahu cybersecurity program cracks top 3 percent of colleges

The University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu's cybersecurity program is ranked 30 among 1,290 colleges, according to the testing of students' cyber aptitude by a leading organization focused on internet security.

Limited space available for UH Community College accelerated online degree

Interest in the program has far exceeded expectations since it launched in January 2019. There were almost 400 applicants for 40 spaces in the first cohort, so the

group was expanded to make room for 55 students. Students completing the program will earn an associate in arts degree from Leeward Community College in December 2021.

Almost 2,000 graduating seniors eligible for new UH Community College scholarship

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges will be offering a new \$200 scholarship for 2019 public high school graduates who earned UH credits while in high school. The "Momentum Scholarship" supports this year's high school graduates as they continue their progress toward their college degree at one of UH's seven community colleges.

National Silver Medal for Kapi'olani CC Culinary Team

Kapi'olani Community College's 2019 culinary competition team, known as Team Hawai'i, finished strong. It was one of five teams to earn a silver medal at the Cook. Craft. Create. American Culinary Federation National Convention and Show—considered the national collegiate culinary championship in Florida in August. Of the six teams that competed this year, one team won a bronze medal and there were no gold medalists

Net zero project could be first in nation for college campus

UH Maui College is on track to officially become the first college campus in the United States to achieve this extraordinarily important sustainability and environmental milestone.

Traditional Hawaiian carving earns college credits for high school students

Students are learning traditional Hawaiian carving and earning college credit at the same time, through what's known as a dual-credit program. Twenty-four students from Castle High School and seven from Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Hawaiian immersion school participated in the wood carving class over the summer. Besides Hawaiian culture and language, the hands-on course incorporated college-level math, science, and research.

University of Hawai'i: 2020

Immediate response to COVID-19 pandemic

In the face of a rapidly evolving global pandemic, the University of Hawai'i was the first state entity to take action to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In March, over the week of spring break, UH's 10 campuses moved all in-person courses online and instructed employees to telework, wherever possible. Even with the abrupt shift to online learning, more than 45,000 students statewide successfully completed the semester that ended with record high graduation rates. UH remained primarily online for the fall semester, and the majority of employees continued to telework.

Though college enrollment has fallen nationally, the UH System has held steady with more local students staying home for college. Since the onset of the pandemic, UH researchers have been searching for an effective vaccine, advising government agencies, providing free COVID-19 testing to underserved communities and studying the economic, social and psychological effects of the pandemic. Also, UH community members have contributed from the beginning in a variety of ways with food drives and other service projects and continue to find more ways to support their communities.

Life Sciences Building ushers in new era at UH Mānoa

A new beginning for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with the completion of the Life Sciences building that will open for instruction in the fall 2020 semester. Located on the Diamond Head end of McCarthy Mall, the three-story, 70,000-square-foot facility with 21 state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories, was built to serve more than 500 students daily and support world class research.

UH Mānoa in top 1% of worldwide universities

UH Mānoa is in the top 1 percent of more than 26,000 worldwide universities, according to the 2021 Times Higher Education World University Rankings released on September 2, 2020.

Offshore submarine freshwater discovery raises hopes for islands worldwide

Twice as much freshwater is stored offshore of Hawai'i Island than was previously thought, according to a UH study with important implications for volcanic islands around the world. The extensive reservoir of freshwater within the submarine southern flank of the Hualālai aquifer was mapped by Hawai'i EPSCoR 'Ike Wai project researchers.

Hawai'i wahine among 'Women of the Century' in national publication

USA Today recognized 10 women from every state and U.S. territory, majority of Hawai'i wahine being UH faculty or alumni.

First Native Hawaiian to earn applied math PhD multiplies successes

UH West O'ahu Associate Math Professor Kamuela Yong has earned a number of distinctions including receiving a 2020 Board of Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching. This, after achieving international recognition, as the first Native Hawaiian to earn a PhD in applied mathematics.

ASUH offers free 'ōlelo Hawai'i classes at UH Mānoa

The Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i, hosted free non-credit Hawaiian language classes at UH Mānoa for the community. The course was a partnership with the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, and turnout was enthusiastic and overwhelming. Classes moved online when COVID-19 closed the campus.

UH students surf, learn culture, earn academic credit

In the lab fieldwork portion for the Anthropology 175 Polynesian Surf Culture course, students learn the fundamentals of surfing while gaining a culture-based sense of Hawai'i and a recognition of the importance of the environment. "The future is very beautiful and positive. E he'e ana kākou. Let's go surfing together."

Maunakea telescope finds hints of life on Venus

What may be the first hints of life on Venus have been discovered by using observations from the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope on Maunakea. The research

team detected the gas phosphine in Venus' upper clouds; on Earth phosphine is excreted by microbes that thrive in oxygen-free environments.

University of Hawai'i: 2021

\$2.7M to grow UH entrepreneurship, workforce development programs

The University of Hawai'i will expand its innovation, entrepreneurship and workforce development ecosystem with the support of a \$2.7-million CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This will be matched with \$813,068 of local funding.

UH graduates record number of community health workers

The program graduated more than quadruple the number of students who have earned their certification in previous years.

\$16M boost for UH cancer research

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center is having an exceptional couple of months when it comes to attracting millions of dollars in federal funding for cancer research. Since August 1 alone, five researchers at the UH Cancer Center have received a total of more than \$16 million in federal funding to conduct public impact research over the next few years. Of the 410 Hawai'i physicians on the Best Doctors list, 333 (81 percent) trained at the University of Hawai'i medical school. Almost half of all physicians currently practicing medicine in Hawai'i earned their MD or specialty certification at JABSOM or serve on its faculty.

\$17.7M for UH Native Hawaiian programs across the state

Thirty-four University of Hawai'i Native Hawaiian education programs across the 10-campus system, including 20 new programs, are being awarded more than \$17.7 million in federal funding. The funding is from the U.S. Department of Education Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions program that was established to expand programs at Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote college completion and success.

\$2.7M for ocean floats, satellites to give UH scientists new ocean, climate insights

Changes in ocean physics, chemistry and biology are occurring in response to human activities. To use satellites and ocean floats to gain new insights into the global ocean and climate change, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa oceanographer Seth Bushinsky received an infusion of support through four grants totaling more than \$2.7 million. The grants come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Infrastructure and Capital Improvements

The HIDOE has completed or initiated hundreds of major Capital Improvement Projects under the Ige administration at public schools around the islands. These include:

- Moanalua High: New Performing Arts Center
- Farrington High: Auditorium renovation and upgrades
- Kawanānakoā Middle: Performing Arts Center
- Kauai High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Maui High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Kalani High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Farrington High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Aiea High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Waipahu High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Mililani High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Kealahou High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Hilo High: Athletics facilities and upgrades
- Hickam El.: Administration building and library
- Kohala High: New Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities
- Stevenson Middle: New Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities
- Waianae High: New Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities
- Molokai High: New Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities
- Kailua High: New Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) facilities
- Daniel K. Inouye El.: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings

- Solomon El.: Replacement campus
- Ewa Makai Middle: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings
- Campbell High: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings
- Mililani Middle: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings
- Ewa El.: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings
- Waikoloa El. & Middle: Major campus-wide renovations and new classroom buildings
- Lanai High & El, Major campus-wide renovations, and new classroom buildings
- New schools were also opened or are under construction
 - Hookele El.
 - Honouliuli Middle
 - Kihei High

Looking Ahead

Governor Ige believes education is one of the most important functions of state government, and there are numerous opportunities for continuity in educational programs going forward. For example, the \$200 million appropriated in 2022 for the School Facilities Authority is the biggest investment in pre-kindergarten education in Hawaii's history. In addition, there are opportunities use new technologies, some of them used during the pandemic, as tools for learning. And we can continue to blend traditional and modern education methodologies to focus on preserving and protecting the state's precious natural resources.