



University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Update for the Workforce Development Council November 10, 2020

The University of Hawaii Community Colleges' workforce development activities address the immediate needs in our community as well as contribute to Hawaii's economic recovery and plans for resilience.

Immediate Needs: Workforce Training for Available Jobs

UHCC continuing education programs continue to provide workforce development and community education programs across the islands. Since COVID-19 restrictions began in mid-March, UHCCs have offered more than 800 different classes with about 10,000 class registrations; all classes have been adjusted for COVID-19 safety protocols including more online instruction. Most of the classes are for workforce training with the largest enrollments in the trades, healthcare and business.

UHCCs offer many of these classes in partnership with employers, government or community-based organizations.

- Oahu Back to Work, a partnership with the City and County of Honolulu (CARES-funded), provides free training to Oahu residents whose employment was disrupted by COVID. Training options were selected based on currently available jobs and/or critical skills identified through labor market data and by employers and industry associations. Oahu Back to Work is on track to train 2,000 residents. In addition to training, participants have access to career services, exclusive hiring events, and the Chamber of Commerce's virtual job fair. <http://oahubacktowork.com/>
- American Jobs Centers and community-based organizations partner with UHCCs to offer job training for eligible individuals.
- UHCCs are providing short term skills training for Kupu Aina Corps interns through a partnership with Kupu and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

UHCCs are also offering Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education and Training Services to eligible students to support food security for students and their families. UHCCs are also partners in Hawaii is Hiring site which is a portal to information about jobs, education and training, coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii.

Economic Recovery and Resilience

UHCCs have a two-prong strategy to address economic recovery and resilience.

1. Support more students' entering and completing industry-valued credentials with opportunities to earn a living wage and contribute to the community and economy.
 - Support students in attaining their educational and career goals by continuing to progress toward degrees and certificates. This enables students to obtain their personal goals while maintaining the state's pipeline for jobs requiring certificates

- and degrees (e.g., nurses, respiratory therapists).
- Encourage more residents to pursue degrees and certificates.
 - “Round 2. Stronger You.” campaign encourages “stopped out” students to return to UH to complete degrees which they previously started. Scholarships and support are available. <http://hawaii.edu/round2>
 - Kulia Scholarships are a scholarship opportunity for students who have never attended UH and want to pursue a degree or certificate.
<http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/kulia>
2. Review and reposition UHCCs’ career and technical education programs and continuing education to be responsive to workforce and economic development needs.
- UHCCs are reviewing its programs as part of the UH President’s imperative to “reposition UH for what Hawaii needs.” This includes consideration of industry-valued credentials, labor market data, and economic development plans.
 - A new U.S. Department of Education Reimagine Workforce Preparation grant of \$13.3 million supports development of *Hana Career Pathways* in healthcare, skilled trades and technology. The grant supports short term training for immediate workforce needs and establishes pathways that provide advancement opportunities in skills, wages, career, and education so that participants have opportunities to earn a family supporting wage.

UHCCs’ [Career Explorer](#) tool provides information about jobs, industry sector needs, and career planning. Recent site updates include labor market information trends *by county* and mapping of skills to occupations and job postings. http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer