



University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Update for the Workforce Development Council

February 5, 2020

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges' workforce development activities address the immediate needs in our community as well as contribute to Hawai'i'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 November, UHCCs completed two multi-campus initiatives:

- Oahu Back to Work, a partnership with the City and County of Honolulu, provided 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 provided 2,250 training opportunities to more than 1,600 Oahu residents. In addition to training, participants had access to career services, exclusive hiring events, and the Chamber of Commerce's virtual job fair. Of those who responded to the post-training survey, 13% had secured employment by mid-December and 71% were either actively seeking employment or planned to seek employment in January. See attached for summary.

In February, Oahu Back to Work applicants, more than 5,000, were invited to an information session about other training opportunities and financial assistance for training via the American Jobs Center Hawai'i, Alu Like or the Honolulu Community Action Program; about 110 participated.

- UHCCs provided short term skills training for Kupu Aina Corps interns through a partnership with Kupu and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. More than 200 interns participated. Classes were aligned with participants' internship opportunities and included training such as chainsaw safety OSHA certification, basic computer skills, and Food Industry X-Celerator.

Economic Recovery and Resilience

UHCCs are continuing in its assessment of workforce programs to align with President David Lassner's recommendations for "[A Post-Pandemic Economy for Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i.](#)" UHCCs are reviewing continuing education and career and technical education programs to be responsive to workforce and economic development needs and to support students in earning industry-valued credentials and college degrees to earn a living wage and contribute to the community and economy. In February, UHCCs, together with Hawai'i P-20, provided its faculty with data about students' post-completion employment and wages to inform program improvements and priorities.

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

A rapid response employment training program in response to the coronavirus pandemic impact.

Thousands of O'ahu residents suffered disruption by COVID-19 impacts such as reduced hours, furloughs or job losses.

In an effort to assist those affected, the University of Hawai'i created a rapid response employment training program that ran from October to December 2020.

The initiative targeted job training or skills training for employment that was available or projected to be available shortly. Classes prepared participants for jobs such as pharmacy technicians, network analysts, security guards, forklift operators and office administrative support.

The University of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu partnered on the O'ahu Back to Work initiative. The initiative offered training at no cost to the participants. Instructors at seven University of Hawai'i Community College campuses and the Mānoa Outreach College provided the training online options or a combination of online and in person instruction with physically distanced interactions.

O'ahu Back to Work also included technology support of laptop and mobile hotspot loaners to connect with online classes, a virtual job fair opportunity, and resume and interview preparation.

Participants included more than 1,600 O'ahu residents whose employment was disrupted due to COVID impacts. Participants registered for 2,250 trainings.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM



The numbers:

MORE THAN **70** COURSES

2,250 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

INSTRUCTION OCCURRED AT THE FOLLOWING CAMPUSES:

CAMPUS	PARTICIPANTS
Hawai'i Community College	263
Honolulu Community College	122
Kapi'olani Community College	456
Kaua'i Community College	284
Leeward Community College	432
UH Mānoa Outreach College	371
UH Maui College	194
Windward Community College	313

13% BECAME EMPLOYED and **70%** are seeking employment

OVER **\$2.15M**

in tuition costs ... covered by federal CARES Act funds.

"My current part time employer is giving me more hours as a result of the (O'ahu Back to Work) course."

- Participant Survey Response

"This is an extremely like awesome opportunity. Just honestly, it couldn't have come at a best time at the moment it felt like especially a lot of us are out of work and not receiving much income."

Alejandra Borunda, O'ahu Back to Work pharmacy technician student

"If there's no income then you have to get some kind of education. You just can't sit there."

Brian Lee, O'ahu Back to Work computer student

For more information email oahuwork@hawaii.edu or call (808) 956-8960.