

Subject: This Week at UH West O'ahu - Week of Jan. 4, 2021
From: UHWO Communications Department <uhwocomm@hawaii.edu>
To: uhwo-all-l@lists.hawaii.edu
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A BULLETIN FOR UH WEST O'AHU FACULTY AND STAFF
This Week at UH West O'ahu

Week of Jan. 4, 2021

Bulletin No. 32 from Chancellor Maenette Benham

**E ala! E alu! E kuilima!
Awaken! Come together! Join hands!**

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude –mahalo nūnui— to each and every member of our UH West O'ahu 'ohana! Indeed, much has been asked of you, and you have responded! I have felt your positive determination and have seen your collective strength in action, and I mahalo you for going above and beyond to keep our campus safe and healthy. Most importantly, mahalo for your steadfastness, your tenacity to ensure that ALL our students had every opportunity to succeed!

Yes, in 2020, many of our "norms" were challenged but what has not waived is our commitment to mission. That continues to ring true. In 2021, the challenges will not subside and neither should our resolve. We must continue to connect and support one another as we pursue a better tomorrow by overcoming the challenges of today. Please tune in to our Spring 2021 UH West O'ahu Convocation:

**Spring 2021 UHWO Convocation and Professional Development
Friday, January 8, 9 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

A promotional banner for the Spring 2021 Professional Development/Convocation. The banner features a collage of images: a Zoom meeting grid on the left, a person at a podium in a lecture hall in the center, and a large red flower in the foreground. The University of Hawaii West Oahu logo is in the top right. The text 'Spring 2021 Professional Development/Convocation' is prominently displayed in the center, with the date 'Friday, January 8, 2021 (9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)' below it. At the bottom, it says 'Participation via Zoom®' and 'RSVP to uhwochan@hawaii.edu to receive Zoom link' next to the Zoom logo.

UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
WEST OAHU

Spring
2021
Professional Development/Convocation

Friday, January 8, 2021 (9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)

Participation via Zoom®
RSVP to uhwochan@hawaii.edu
to receive Zoom link

zoom

RSVP to uhwochan@hawaii.edu by Thursday, Jan. 7, 10 a.m.

COVID-19 Update

As the spring semester begins, many of you may find it necessary to stop by your offices. Please know that our campus is open to all faculty, staff, students and vendors/contractors; however, we are still closed to the general public. So, please remember the Pueo Safety Promise and if you should come to campus always check-in using the UHWO Health App and wear your campus ID (on a lanyard or somewhere visible to security).

Remember: If you have tested positive, are symptomatic, or have had contact with a positive case, contact the campus COVID-19 Hotline at (808) 689-2525. For more information visit westoahu.hawaii.edu/covid-19.

Update on our Campus Budgeting and Planning Process

Campus leadership would like to “MAHALO NŪNUI” all the members of our campus-wide task force, the Pueo Stewardship Task Force, for the many hours of effort they contributed to developing two reports. Please visit westoahu.hawaii.edu/planningprocess to review their reports and the documents/data they accessed. Many of the cost reduction/efficiency recommendations have been implemented or are currently being explored/studied further. Recommendations for investments will be sent to the appropriate campus-wide or unit work groups, which will be formed and tasked this month (January 2021).

As we know, the magnitude of the impact of COVID on Hawai‘i’s economy is great. The UH System will realize next fiscal year 2022 (July 2021-June 2022) a \$78 million reduction to our G-Fund (pays personnel/warm bodies). UH West O‘ahu’s share is 3.4%, which is a permanent reduction of \$2.7 million to our G-Funds. The work that we have been doing is decreasing our operational costs (focusing on critical operational costs only) while at the same time adjusting our delivery of essential instruction. What we have had to do, as Dr. Jan Javinar reminds us, is to “do differently with the resources we have!” We have had to be creative and think *out of and through* the proverbial box while at the same time deliver our quality programs differently, strengthen our new enrollment strategies, engage everyone in our efforts to increase persistence and retention to graduation, streamline and work with our community colleges to increase transfers, build a vibrant distance education program portfolio, and intensify our returning adults initiatives.

Our next steps include sunseting the task force and working with campus leadership to task campus-wide work groups and unit work groups (OVCAA, OVCSA, OVCA) who will employ what we already know and are doing + best practices/research and learning from others + the work and recommendations provided by the Pueo Stewardship Task Force = to build and live into a new business model for UHWO. Learn more about this direction at Friday’s (Jan. 8) Convocation and Professional Development Meeting.

E mālama pono!
Maenette Benham, Chancellor

University of Hawai‘i COVID-19 resources

Remember to visit the [UH West O‘ahu COVID-19 page](#) and [University of Hawai‘i System COVID-19 site](#) for information and updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

COPING THROUGH COVID

How are you maintaining your mental, physical, and emotional well-being while practicing social distancing? We’d like to hear about your coping mechanisms or personal stories of how you are managing as we navigate these challenging times. Have unique tips to share? Fun activities? Email uhwocomm@hawaii.edu to submit your survival strategies.

Here’s a submission from Brad Ashburn, Assistant Professor of Chemistry:

Fun fact: The happiest place on campus is the chemistry lab, so when the pandemic forced us into the remote-learning pivot, it was initially quite depressing. There is nothing better than being surrounded by gleaming beakers and shiny flasks nestled on a sterile lab bench. I considered doing chemistry experiments at home, but “garage chemistry” seems to have gotten a bad reputation. (Thanks, “Breaking Bad.”)

Fortunately, I was saved by my paw-some cat Mister Mang! Without my molecules to manipulate in the lab, I

satisfied my curiosity by discovering the best methods and areas to pet him. Through experimentation, I found that he really likes when I rub my face on his head in an anterior-to-posterior motion; especially when I have 3- to 4-day-old chin stubble. I hypothesize that this reminds him of being licked by his mother. Petting under his chin also elicits a strong favorable response.

Beyond petting methodology, I would place two different protein sources (for example steak and shrimp) on two plates in front of him and see which one he ate first and measured the velocity of his eating. FYI, steak won every time.

Eight months later, Mister Mang now demands extensive daily petting and enjoys cat-bombing my Zoom meetings. As a bonus, when he lays down on my keyboard, I take that as a sign to get up and walk around. Bye bye pesky Apple Watch stand reminder!

If you are feeling stressed or depressed, I highly recommend turning to your furry family members for comfort.
#catlife #catstagram



Photo courtesy of Brad Ashburn

January 2021 anniversaries

The University of Hawai'i celebrates [January 2021 faculty and staff anniversaries](#), including UH West O'ahu's Tracy Higa, Institutional Support (20 years); Kristen Nakamoto, Academic Support (10 years); Clinton Nishida, Institutional Support (10 years); and Ke'alohi Perry, Junior Specialist (10 years). Congratulations!

State employee furloughs delayed until at least July 1, 2021

This message from University of Hawai'i President David Lassner was shared with faculty and staff of the 10-campus UH System on Dec. 29:

We are happy to report that, based on the enactment of the federal COVID-19 relief bill and the funding that will flow to Hawai'i, the Governor has determined that furloughs of state employees are not necessary this fiscal year and will be delayed until at least July 1, 2021. Thank you once again for all you do in these trying times for our students and the people of Hawai'i.

'COVID-19 Telework' reminder

If you were approved for telework, please remember to complete your online leave with the new "COVID-19 Telework" code; please do so every month by the 10th. Note that you do not have to redo your telework forms every month. Also, if

you are working a hybrid schedule, input only your telework days in the system. For paid sick and vacation leave, please request as usual. If you have any questions, email janice.sunouchi@hawaii.edu.

Agenda and materials for Board of Regents meetings, Jan. 7

The following meetings will be held virtually and are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 7. The agenda and materials packets may be accessed on the board's public website by following the links below. UH West O'ahu is "hosting" this meeting and Chancellor Benham, Faculty Senate Chair Edward Keaunui and ASUHWO Vice President Caton Liang are set to make remarks and present on behalf of the campus.

- 8:30 a.m. - Joint Meeting of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs & Committee on Personnel Affairs and Board Governance: <http://go.hawaii.edu/35o>
- 9:30 a.m. - Board of Regents: <http://go.hawaii.edu/j53>

In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, protecting the health and welfare of the community is of utmost concern. As such, this will be a virtual meeting. Written testimony and registration to provide oral testimony via Zoom will be accepted in lieu of in-person testimony. Meetings may be monitored remotely via the livestream pilot project. See the Board of Regents website for information on accessing the livestream: www.hawaii.edu/bor

Deadline for teaching awards nominations extended until Jan. 15

Students, staff, and faculty are welcome to nominate any faculty member — full-time or part-time — or librarian for the 2020-2021 University of Hawai'i Teaching Excellence Awards. The deadline for nominations has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15. You may nominate more than one person but use a separate form for each nominee and do not nominate the same person more than once. The name of the awards are: Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching and UH West O'ahu Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award. For more information about the awards or to submit nominations, go to <http://go.hawaii.edu/9Q3>. The [OPDAS microsite](#) also has a page that has more information about faculty and staff awards. All questions should be emailed to tawards@hawaii.edu.

UH West O'ahu Zoom accounts will move to UH ITS Zoom

All UH West O'ahu Zoom users will receive new Zoom invitations from the UH ITS Zoom administrators. All UH West O'ahu Zoom users will join the UH System Zoom tenant by the spring semester. This move will accomplish two things: We will save money on our Zoom licenses and we will be able to communicate better with our UH colleagues. Please do not set up your Zoom meeting sessions for the spring semester until after you accept the Zoom invitation from UH ITS because those meetings will not transfer. You will also need to set up your Zoom virtual backgrounds again after you accept the UH ITS Zoom invitation. Also, please download all of your current Zoom recordings before Jan. 31. If you need assistance with the downloading or have questions, please email therese@hawaii.edu.

Reminder: Avoid entering job sites on/around campus

Please refrain from entering and walking/biking through project job sites on and around the UH West O'ahu campus, including Road B, Road D, Rail Station Touchdown, Park and Ride Lot, the Pedestrian Walkway connecting the AHS to the Road B culdesac, and the Plaza. All of these areas (excluding the Walkway and Plaza) are still under HART's control. The Pedestrian Walkway and Plaza projects are active construction sites under its respective contractor's control. For your safety, please coordinate any access needs with Planning and Facilities. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Arakawa, 689-2539.

Kualaka'i (East Kapolei) Station update

A view of Kualaka'i (East Kapolei) rail station. Image courtesy of Nan, Inc.:



Distance Learning Tip of the Week – Share Loom Videos in Laulima

There are several options for integrating a Loom video into your Laulima course; the first being the simplest: share the link with students. Simply copy the video link and add it to your course Lessons page using 'Add Content Links.' When students click the link, they go to the Loom site where they have the option to watch the video as normal or up to 2x the recording speed. You can also download the MP4 from Loom and upload to Laulima Resources to embed into Lessons. The third option is to get the embed code from Loom. See [Embed Loom Videos into Laulima Lessons](#) infographic.

UH West O'ahu in the News

Civil Beat (Dec. 14): "[7 Principles to Transform Housing in Hawai'i.](#)" A Community Voice opinion piece by Manulani Aluli Meyer, Konohiki of Kulana O Kapolei, who shares the importance of placing aloha 'āina where it belongs — at the center — and following the principles that surround it.

UH News (Dec. 15): "['Christmas in the Islands' musical celebration a gift to UH 'ohana.](#)" UH West O'ahu's special musical event on Dec. 23 was part of the He Ukana Aloha Kā Kīlauea series, which celebrates the stories of our islands and 10 UH campuses.

Zippia.com (Dec. 16): "[Experts Weigh in on Current Job Market Trends.](#)" Dr. Mary Heller provides her opinions on where the job market for recent graduates is heading, as well as how young graduates entering the industry can be adequately prepared.

UH News (Dec. 21): "[Creative media HS students earn college credit, showcase talents.](#)" High school students taking college-level courses showcased their artistic, musical and creative talents in December through a series of Early College projects aimed at keeping their loved ones safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UH News (Dec. 21): "[Virtual celebrations, drive-through recognize fall 2020 grads.](#)" Although fall 2020 at the University of Hawai'i—West O'ahu, UH Hilo and UH Mānoa looked a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the campuses found ways to celebrate students' achievements with commencement.

UH News (Dec. 22): "[Photos: Congratulations fall 2020 UH grads!](#)" The University of Hawai'i celebrates the UH West O'ahu, UH Hilo and UH Mānoa graduates with virtual fall commencement ceremonies and a drive-through celebration in a year like no other.

UH News (Dec. 22): "[Top 10 UH News stories: COVID-19, life on Venus and more.](#)" UH News reached new heights in 2020 with a record 1,457 stories posted (and still counting) and a record 1.9 million views. The article lists its top 10 UH News stories, including "[First Native Hawaiian to earn applied math PhD multiplies successes,](#)" about UH West O'ahu Associate Math Professor Kamuela Yong.

News from [Ka Puna O Kalo'i](#)



[Spring 2021 U-Pass sale for student riders starts Dec. 21](#) - University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu students who ride TheBus are eligible to purchase a U-Pass, a reduced-rate bus pass tailored to the needs of university students.

[Faculty encouraged to apply for new Sustainability Focus designation for their courses](#) - The University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu introduced a Sustainability Focus designation for courses in the Fall 2020 semester — there are nearly 20 Sustainability-Focused courses for Spring 2021 — and faculty are being encouraged to apply for the new designation for their upcoming courses.

[Prep students showcase college-level creative media talents](#) - High school students taking college courses presented their artistic, musical, and creative talents with a series of projects aimed at keeping their loved ones safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Join forum with leaders in agriculture and food policy innovation, Jan. 7, 2021](#) - The University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Sustainable Community Food Systems program is among the organizers of the Food+ Policy Landscape Update 2021, an online forum the public is welcome to attend from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7.

The deadline to include your item in the next This Week is Thursday night. Please submit your item using the Communication Department's [Communications Request Form](#).

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University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu
[91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707](#)
ph: 689-2800 | [westoahu.hawaii.edu](#)