

Abstract

“Renovations for Student Success in Developmental,
Digital Media/STEM, and Business Education”
Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu, HI

Purpose: To complete three renovations in the Kahikoluamea Center, Digital Media/STEM Center and Business Learning Center for improved student support, high context learning, retention, continuation, and degree completion by Native Hawaiian and all students.

Kapiolani Community College (the College) is a two-year public institution providing high quality liberal arts and 21st Century career programs, serving diverse Native Hawaiian and multi-ethnic students and communities. The total enrollment for Fall 2007 was 7,463, of which 916 were Native Hawaiians. Data for Fall 2006 show 20 percent of students were 18-20 years of age, 40 percent aged 20-24, and 33.3 percent aged 25-59, with a median age of 24.8 years. The College enrolls a majority of female students (57.6 percent). The College is nationally recognized for creating a new ecology of learning that integrates classrooms, labs and centers, campus, community, and cyberspace. This learning ecology opens many avenues to faculty innovation in meeting the diverse learning styles of our students. The College demonstrates substantial academic strength: a commitment to inclusive excellence and research-based best practices; enrollment stability and transfer success; strengthening Hawaiian studies and improved outcomes for Native Hawaiian students; faculty-driven improvements in learning outcomes assessment; an impressive Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program; responsive career programs; renovation of Holomua, an integrated approach to developmental education, and the proposed consolidation of Holomua, First Year Experience and Malama Hawaii into the Kahikoluamea program. Academic weaknesses include the high percentage of students scoring into college-readiness levels as well as lower-than-national success rates in developmental courses for Native Hawaiian and all students, which contribute to low retention and continuation into second-year courses, including the STEM and Business Education Programs. In addition, 20-35 year old classrooms, labs and learning centers are not conducive to the new ecology of learning strategies, techniques and technology. The College’s fiscal strength lies in diversified revenue streams and its weakness lies in attrition rates resulting in significant losses in tuition revenue.

To address our academic and fiscal weaknesses, the College is proposing comprehensive renovations modeled on the College’s very successful STEM Center, will incorporate Hawaiian cultural design concepts and result in improved student support services, increased student effort in the active, collaborative, technology-integrated learning of academically challenging Developmental and Business Education curricula, increased peer mentoring and faculty-student interaction, and comprehensive ePortfolio-based learning outcomes assessment. The renovation of the Digital Media/STEM Center will support the integration of digital media applications into STEM and other degree programs. These renovations, with campus-funded personnel support, will facilitate the College’s efforts to improve pedagogy and student support as measured by higher financial aid participation and course success, retention, continuation, and completion rates for Native Hawaiian and all students in developmental courses, as well as in STEM, Business and other degree programs.

Total Budget Request: \$3,625,045