

Subject: This Week at UH West O'ahu - Week of April 5, 2021
From: UHWO Communications Department <uhwocomm@hawaii.edu>
To: uhwo-all-l@lists.hawaii.edu
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Attachments: Give your aloha..pdf



Week of April 5, 2021

Bulletin No. 44 from Chancellor Maenette Benham

Statement of Gratitude: "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

— Melody Beattie

Update on Gradual Reopening of UH West O'ahu Campus

As the UH System and our own campus begins to develop a plan for our gradual reopening in the fall of 2021, we are well aware that the cost to reopen in these times, will be more not less, but colleges (UH West O'ahu) must open as we are a vital part of our region's (and state's) economic engine. So, we begin the process with **CARE**: In a nutshell, we have begun our plan to reopen gradually this spring semester with more F-2-F (face-to-face) courses, blended/hybrid courses, and labs. Additionally, more of us have increased the number of days we are working from campus (less remote work days) and there have been in-person meetings of up to 8-10 people. We will continue to add more on-campus activities through the summer. Of great importance is that we **continue to maintain physical distancing**; deploy the public health tools needed to keep our campus safe preventing the virus's spread; and continue to invest in educating and empowering our faculty, staff, students and guests. To learn more about our guidelines please go to our [website](#). Beginning with care is essential and can only be effective if all our UH West O'ahu community members extend that care by **appreciating and supporting one another**. One of the silver linings of this moment is that we can reach out through a phone call, an email, a zoom gathering to show our colleagues that they are appreciated and they are not alone. I encourage us all to reach out this week to actively combat fear and isolation, and instead, generate kaiāulu.

To begin this celebration, please join your colleagues and friends at our drive-thru graduation ceremonies on campus, which will allow for some elbow bumping, graduation photo, physically distanced waves and selfies with faculty and staff, name announcing, and picking up a special gift from the Chancellor! We will balance both health/safety and the joy/tradition of this milestone.

SPRING 2021 DRIVE THRU CELEBRATION SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021 2 to 5 p.m.

To support and to celebrate our graduates fill out this form today:

<https://forms.gle/UE9gXppT8gAenYV38>

The link includes the date, time, and general plan

Respond by: Friday, April 9, 2021 @ 5 p.m.

Update on our Campus Work Groups

Please see the [April Ka Pe'ahi Lono](#) for recent updates.

Update on Federal Stimulus Funds

The first meeting of our Federal Funding Advisory Council was held on Thursday, April 1. The members of this advisory hui represent campus communities not represented by the Vice Chancellors, they include:

Nalimakui Council - Ka'iulani Akamine
Kapwa Council - Rouel Velasco
Faculty Senate - Katherine Aumer
Budget/Business Model Work Group - Leslie Rush
APT/Admin & Fiscal - Donna Shaver
ASUHWO - Brittany Perez and Alan Iwasaki (alternate)
Facilitating: Sheri Ching and Chancellor Benham
Notetaker: Chris Neves

The first meeting provided orientation regarding federal funding (a ppt is being developed and will be shared with the campus community when complete). This increased collective understanding of the opportunities as well as the restrictions of federal funding. The conversation also included the role of counsel and the important perspective that each member brings. For your information, here is overarching information about the three federal funding streams:

Federal Stimulus Funding to UH West O'ahu, which includes:

I. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES Act March 27, 2020)

Tranche I: Student Aid

Tranche II: Institutional

Tranche III: MSI

You may hear us call this HEERF I -- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

This was a total of \$14.3B

II. Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA December 27, 2020)

Supplemental to Tranche I: Student Aid -- just received

Supplemental to Tranche II: Institutional -- just received

Supplemental to Tranche III: MSI -- just received

You may hear us call this HEERF II -- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

This was a total of \$22.7B

III. The American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

This was proposed on Jan. 14, 2021, enacted March 22, 2021 (1.9 Trillion).

For ED: \$18M Student Aid, \$18M Institutional, \$3.7 MISC

You may hear us call this HEERF III -- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

This will be a total of \$39.6B

More information anticipated within the next several weeks

University of Hawai'i COVID-19 resources and announcements

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

We recently commemorated [one year of our "Coping Through COVID" series](#)! Since the series' launch on March 23, 2020, we have heard from more than 50 UH West O'ahu faculty and staff on how they are personally coping through the ongoing COVID-19 situation. After a successful run, the series will end on April 26.

Until then, we continue to welcome your submissions! Please tell us: 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. Photos are welcome, too!

Here is a submission from UH West O'ahu Academic Program/Faculty Affairs Specialist Terri Ota:

Though the past year has been one of new challenges and learning new ways to connect, it has also given me opportunities to reconnect with past hobbies. We learned to sew when we were young, and my mother and grandmother were both very good at using what we had to create patchwork blankets — we didn't realize back then how much we'd cherish those when we got older! With the closing down of everything last March, my sister and I started looking for mask patterns and pulling out the sewing machines, which we haven't worked with in years!

Initially, when all the stores closed, I went through the fabric that I had gathered over the years, then even repurposed old aloha shirts. And when the fabric stores finally opened, it was like visiting a candy store! Now that we have a supply of masks, I'm wanting to get back into patchwork again ...



Photo courtesy of Terri Ota

‘COVID-19 Telework’ reminder

If you were approved for telework, please remember to complete your online leave with the “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.

April 2021 anniversaries

The University of Hawai'i celebrates [April 2021 faculty and staff anniversaries](#), including UH West O'ahu's Summer Debruyne, Academic Support (10 years), and Kelly Fujino, Instructional and Student Support (10 years). Congratulations!

Virtual Commencement Celebration for Spring 2021

UH West O'ahu won't be able to hold a traditional in-person ceremony this spring, however, we are putting together a Virtual Commencement Ceremony. The pre-recorded event will celebrate our Spring 2021 graduates, complete with photos submitted by the graduates and “Congratulations” messages from Chancellor Maenette Benham, President David Lassner, Faculty Senate Chair Ed Keaunui, and ASUHWO President Caton Liang. The UH West O'ahu Na Lehua 'Ula Alumni Award recipient will also be recognized. And, we have invited our community partners to offer words of celebration.

The Virtual Commencement Ceremony will debut on Saturday, May 8, 2021, at 9 a.m.

We want to invite YOU to join the celebrations. Here's how:

1. Visit the UH West O'ahu website to view the Digital Swag site, which includes Zoom backgrounds congratulating our 2021 graduates, and recognizing our 45th anniversary. (Mahalo to Communications.)



One of several Zoom backgrounds congratulating our graduates.

2. Download a Zoom background, wear your academic regalia, and create a sign — “Congratulations,” “You did it!” or any heartfelt congratulations sentiment.
3. There are 12 Zoom meetups scheduled from Monday, April 5, through Friday, April 9.
4. Select a date and time to join other faculty and staff to create a “Zoom Celebrations Collage” (approximately 15 faculty and staff may appear in a window during the video):

- Monday, April 5 (11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, April 6 (8 a.m., 8:30 a.m, 9 a.m.)
- Wednesday, April 7 (1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m.)
- Friday, April 9 (8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.)

We are also working with the Divisions, Service Areas, and the Faculty Senate to record Zoom celebrations during upcoming meetings.



A sample “Zoom Celebrations Collage” from Fall 2020.

5. Review the [“Zoom Celebrations Collage Info”](#) Google form for more information, including a Zoom link. *Even if you don’t sign up, please join others to celebrate our graduates.

Join the Zoom link to participate in a brief video to celebrate and congratulate our UH West O’ahu 2021 graduates. The Zoom screen video will be added to the Virtual Commencement Ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Opulauoho at opulauoh@hawaii.edu.

Reminder: Nominations for 2021 Kumupa’a Staff Award nominations due today, April 5

[Nominations](#) are being accepted for the 2021 Kumupa‘a Staff Award. The UH West O‘ahu Kumupa‘a Staff Award recognizes a civil service or administrative professional and technical (APT) employee for outstanding demonstrated work performance, service, leadership, and/or fostering of excellence in higher education.

Eligibility

Any full-time civil service or APT employee who has been employed continuously for not less than twelve (12) consecutive months at UH West O‘ahu.

Criteria for Selection

1. Making significant improvements in the services of the university;
2. Showing imaginative or creative solutions to difficult department or university problems;
3. Taking an active interest and participating in department or university affairs;
4. Having a good record of competence and sustained efficiency;
5. Demonstrating integrity and dedication to UH West O‘ahu’s mission and institutional values (Pahuhopu);
6. Contributing to the increased efficiency of the university or the system through such means as eliminating unnecessary duplication, economically combining operations, procedures, reports and/or forms, or eliminating water, fire, health or accident hazards.

Nominations

[Nominations](#) are being accepted until today, April 5. You will be asked to attach a statement (one-page maximum, double-spaced) why you believe your nominee is deserving of this award.

Learn more about UH West O‘ahu award-winning faculty and staff on the [Faculty and Staff Awards page](#) on the OPDAS website.

Reminder: AC work in the library, April 6

A contractor will be working on the AC on the second floor of the James & Abigail Campbell Library on Tuesday, April 6. There will be no air conditioning on the second floor of the library on that day. Please make necessary arrangements ahead of time. Mahalo in advance for your understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Work Coordination Center at 689-2535.

Hawai‘i Foodbank Food Drive



Aloha mai kākou UH West O‘ahu ‘Ohana!

During this unprecedented time, the Hawai‘i Foodbank needs our continued support now more than ever. The issue of hunger continues to be a major challenge facing our community and the demands on the Hawai‘i Foodbank are even greater. While the top five needs are various canned goods and rice, which are currently in short supply, please be reminded that monetary donations are also being accepted via the Hawai‘i Foodbank’s [“Online Donation”](#) page – be sure to list UH West O‘ahu as your campus. Another avenue of support is to [purchase the 2021 Hawaii Foodbank T-shirt](#).

This year, your Hawai‘i Foodbank coordinators will be trying something new. Food donations can be dropped off at the campus turnaround on:

- **Wednesday, April 14, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
- **Friday, April 16, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. – noon**

For those unable to do the drop off, volunteers can coordinate a pick-up at your home during the final week of the campaign, April 26 – May 2, 2021.

We look forward to continuing the University's long tradition of support for the Hawai'i Foodbank. More information about UH's Foodbank Campaign can be found at www.hawaii.edu/offices/president/foodbank. Additional Information on Emergency Food Assistance can be found at the Hawai'i Foodbank: <http://www.hawaiifoodbank.org/emergency-assistance>.

Please take a moment to consider making a contribution to assist those who are most in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Neves at 689-2773 or at cabralch@hawaii.edu or Ryan Perreira at rperreir@hawaii.edu.

Volunteers needed for food distribution events — service learning opportunities for students, April 10 and 17

Distributing food to our families, especially now during the pandemic, has been an important aspect of how to care for our beloved community. Volunteers are needed at upcoming food distribution events — service learning opportunities for students supported by the UH West O'ahu Sustainability Committee. The distributions will take place 6:30 to 11 a.m. on the following Saturdays, March 13 and 20, April 10 and 17, May 8 and 15, and June 12 and 19, in the Kapolei and 'Ewa communities. For more information, including what you need to do to participate safely, email manulani@hawaii.edu. Please see and share the attached flyer.

2021 EUTF Health Benefits and PCP Open Enrollment

A message from [System Office of Human Resources](#): The Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) and Premium Conversion Plan (PCP) Open Enrollment period is from April 1, 2021, through April 30, 2021, for coverage effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

To be eligible for health benefits, employees must be employed on a half-time basis or more and have an appointment at least 3 months in duration. Should you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your designated HR Representative (<http://go.hawaii.edu/Aiz>).

During Open Enrollment, eligible employees have the opportunity to make changes to health coverage and PCP (PCP is a voluntary program that allows employees to deduct health plan premiums on a pre-tax basis). For more information, view the OHR Announcement banner "2021 Open Enrollment – Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Medical Benefits" at <https://www.hawaii.edu/ohr/>.

Reminder: 2021 Island Flex Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) Open Enrollment

A message from [System Office of Human Resources](#): If you are a member of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and interested in paying for eligible out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses with tax-free money, consider enrolling in the Island Flex Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) program.

Open Enrollment runs through April 30, 2021. Virtual informational workshops will be held throughout the month of April. For more information, visit the OHR website announcement, "2021 Open Enrollment – Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Medical Benefits" at <http://go.hawaii.edu/JDA>.

Honouliuli (Ho'opili) Station update

A view of Honouliuli (Ho'opili) rail station. Image courtesy of Nan, Inc.:



Distance Learning Tip of the Week – Is Your Online Course Ready?

The [UH Online Quality Course Design Review](#) is an opportunity for instructors to submit their Lualima course for feedback and review. As part of a cohort, participants benefit from peer support and receive individual advice from experienced instructional designers. Completion of the process results in a digital badge signifying the course design meets standards based on Quality Matters rubrics. Questions may be directed to uhoic@hawaii.edu.

UH West O’ahu in the News

Honolulu Civil Beat (April 4): “[How the Westside is Restoring the Coconut Tree as a Food Source in Hawai’i.](#)” Story showcasing how a group from the University of Hawai’i–West O’ahu sees planting coconut trees as a way of improving food security and cultural ties in Hawai’i.

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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**Mahalo
WCCF, Word
of Life West
O'ahu, and
'Ewa Lions
Club!**



**Locations:
Kapolei +
'Ewa**



**Time
6:30 am-11:00 am**



**Dates:
Saturdays
Feb 13/20
March 13/20
April 10/17
May 8/15
June 12/19**



Eō UH West O'ahu 'ohana!

**GIVE
YOUR
ALOHA.**

**FOOD
DISTRIBUTION
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

This is a SERVICE LEARNING opportunity for students. The Sustainability Committee is working with our beloved community to provide volunteers. For more information please contact manulani@hawaii.edu

**PLEASE CONTACT : AUNTY PATTY
KAHANAMOKU TERUYA
DIRECTOR, WAI'ANAE COAST
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (WCCF)**

pattyteruya@gmail.com