

Subject: This Week at UH West O'ahu - Week of March 29, 2021
From: UHWO Communications Department <uhwocomm@hawaii.edu>
To: uhwo-all-l@lists.hawaii.edu
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Week of March 29, 2021

Bulletin No. 43 from Chancellor Maenette Benham

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

Statement of Gratitude: ***“Gratitude is a powerful catalyst for happiness. It’s the spark that lights a fire of joy in your soul.” – Amy Collette***

Update COVID-19

We are still in the process of offering first and second vaccines to our faculty, staff and student employees.

Gradual Reopening of UH West O'ahu Campus

Update on our Campus Work Groups

Student Success: Recruitment and Retention:

- Work group has generated strategies to recruit adults returning to education, military connected, and transfers from community colleges. Additionally, they have developed strategies to promote the re-enrollment and continued academic success of continuing students. The work group, in subsequent meetings, will be working to refine the strategies and prioritizing them.
- In addition, the work group is learning more about the revised business model and how to apply to their recruitment and retention strategy development.
- For more information contact either iVC Javinar or Instructor Reed Young.

Student Learning

The Student Learning Work Group recently focused on proposals for the investment of one-time relief funds in key areas, in order to effectively respond to impending challenges and proactively address emerging needs. This effort aims our attention at being more efficient as well as generating the revenue needed to offset the reduction in general fund support. This involves the development of innovative changes and new initiatives, concerning student learning, in light of current and possible future conditions in our state. Examples include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Short-term programs, aimed at working adults, focused on develop skills for the workforce
- Short-term program credentials that can be applied toward a degree in the future
- Opening more opportunities for earning college credit through assessments of prior learning gained outside the college classroom
- Advancing our capacity to provide hybrid, blended learning opportunities that leverage our use of developing technology
- The redeployment of resources into new scheduling models that better fit working professionals and non-traditional students
- Building a sense of belonging through the creation of transdisciplinary learning communities that provide problem-based, place-based, and culture-based learning opportunities

The group also celebrated progress, over the span of our work group meetings, in the following areas: (1) the development of a prior learning assessment system for Creative Media; and (2) recent changes in requirements that will remove barriers that prevented students seeking to be teachers from entering the Education Program.

- For more information contact either VC Moniz or Division Chair Mary Heller.

Business Model:

- The work of the Business Model group has paused as the other work groups work with the model to refine it.
- For more information contact either Dr. Walter Kahumoku or Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Ed Keaunui.

Campus Efficiencies:

The Campus Efficiencies Work Group is focusing on two general categories:

- Streamlining various campus processes through the use of technology
- Providing increased professional development opportunities to our faculty and staff

The group is currently discussing potential strategies and will be meeting to learn how to employ the revised business model to support their decision-making.

- For more information contact either VC Ishida or Sheri Ching (Business Office)/

Update on Federal Stimulus Funds

Providing an overview of Federal Funding current and future:

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

Tranche I: [Student Aid](#)

Tranche II: [Institutional](#)

Tranche III: [Minority Serving Institutions](#)

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

We do not yet know the amount coming to the UH System and to individual campuses.

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

Please read the April Ka Pe'ahi Lono. We will provide more details on our current funding.

E mālama pono!

Chancellor Maenette Benham

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 Kirsten Vacca, assistant professor of Anthropology at UH West O’ahu:

Coping during the pandemic has been ... difficult for me to say the least. I was fortunate to be offered a position at UH West O’ahu before the pandemic hit, but by the time I had moved to Hawai’i from California we were all sequestered at home. While this gave me time to unpack and settle into our new apartment, hang out with my husband, and make sure my cats were adjusting, none of my normal coping strategies seemed to work for this unprecedented (as they say) situation.

Taking time to walk around the neighborhood or go exploring with my husband is always how we have coped with stresses in our lives, but this was different. Being outside around others during the pandemic, exploring new places — this was no longer a respite from stress, but rather an added cause for concern. We suddenly found ourselves leaving our home without the ability to say goodbye, in a new place unable to say hello. It was isolating. Setting up virtual game days for friends across the country, joining a faculty book club, and attending professional development events as a means for socialization helped, but I needed another coping strategy.

While I often recommend mental health care for others, I had yet to normalize this approach for myself, but it was time. Over the past few months, coping with isolation and major life changes meant finding and working with a therapist to address stress and loneliness. This normalizing of mental health care has allowed me to find a better work-life balance while dealing with isolation until we are able to get to a point where we can all be back together again.



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Vacca

Get your customizable “Get Vaccinated UH!” email signature now

A message from the University of Hawai’i Vaccination Team: All of our UH employees have been offered COVID-19 vaccination and the State of Hawai’i has been signalling that Phase 2 may start as early as May, which means everyone 16 years and older will be offered vaccination!

As we get ready for Phase 2, show your support and encourage your colleagues, friends, and peers to Get Vaccinated UH! Together we can beat COVID-19! You can now [personalize your email signatures with your favorite UH campus “Get Vaccinated UH!” message](#).

Get more information on the [“Get Vaccinated UH!” campaign here](#) and remember that the COVID-19 vaccine is a personal decision and not mandatory. Anyone who has questions about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine can find more information on the [state health department](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) websites.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Signature



Your Name

Your Title, Your campus affiliation
(808) 123-4567 | youremail@hawaii.edu
Your unit's URL

University of Hawai‘i Hilo Signature



Your Name

Your Title, Your campus affiliation
(808) 123-4567 | youremail@hawaii.edu
Your unit's URL

Samples of Mānoa and Hilo signatures.

Welcome to the newest employees on our campus

Please extend a warm welcome to Kirk Ishida, Financial Aid Specialist, and Haunani Haia, Archives Project Assistant. They joined our campus earlier this month!

Congratulations to our campus members on their selections

- Camonia Graham-Tutt, assistant professor of Community Health, was selected to be part of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i Young Professionals sixth Mentor Hawai‘i Program cohort. This year’s program has paired 27 young professionals with business and community leaders for one-on-one mentorship over six months.
- Melissa Saul, director of the Institute of Engaged Scholarship, was selected to be part of the 2021 cohort of the Lead Me program, which provides mentoring and professional development support from the NCURA Educational and Professional Development Committees of Regions VI and VII.

UH West O‘ahu receives high ranking for social science program

The University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu was recently ranked No. 4 by [Study.com](#) on its list of [Best Online Bachelor's in Social Science Programs](#). To develop a definitive list of the best online bachelor's degrees in social science, Study.com analyzed data from the United States Department of Education using a comprehensive ranking methodology. With a special focus on affordability and accessibility, Study.com has taken into account factors such as tuition, support for online students, and career resources, among others.

Nominations for 2021 Kumupa‘a Staff Award nominations due April 5

[Nominations](#) are now 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 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.

PACE accepting applications for 2021 Summer Startup Launchpad

Please share with students that PACE is accepting applications for the 2021 Summer Startup Launchpad. This popular and competitive program teaches the lean startup methodology, provides dedicated mentorship, and rewards high-achieving founders with startup capital funds. The program is free and open to all students from any UH campus, including community colleges. The deadline to apply is April 30. For eligibility criteria and more details, visit pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/launchpad.

Registration is open for Spring 2021 Professional Development Week

The Office of Professional Development and Academic Support (OPDAS) is preparing several professional development sessions during the week of May 10 to 14. There are sessions that pertain to professional and personal growth. All staff, faculty, and administrators are welcome to participate. The [Spring 2021 Professional Development site](#) lists the sessions and presenters, and the [registration form](#). For online synchronous sessions held via Zoom, the log-in information will be sent via email to participants who are registered for each session.

Employee Assistance Program Update

The University of Hawai'i System Office of Human Resources (OHR) announced effective April 1, 2021, Employee Assistance of the Pacific is the new contracted vendor to provide employee assistance services. Please visit the [OHR website](#) information on eligibility and services provided.

Keone'ae (UH West O'ahu) Station update

A view of Keone'ae (UH West O'ahu) rail station. Image courtesy of Nan, Inc.:



Distance Learning Tip of the Week – Zoom + Screencast-O-Matic

Zoom can now be integrated with upgraded Screencast-O-Matic accounts (Deluxe or Premiere). This integration allows users to polish Zoom recordings by cutting out unnecessary segments and adding commentary, where needed. To install the Screencast-O-Matic Video Editor app, sign into the [Zoom App Marketplace](#) with your UH account. Click the blue request pre-approve button. The UH account admin is automatically notified. This third-party app is UH-approved and requests to connect the services will be expedited. Click the linked article for more.

[Easily Edit Zoom Recordings With Screencast-O-Matic](#)

UH West O’ahu in the News

UH News (March 19): “[UH, film tax credit play crucial roles in future of film production in Hawai’i.](#)” According to a new [University of Hawai’i Economic Research Organization](#) (UHERO) brief, Hawai’i’s film production industry is expected to expand, thanks to new educational programs and brand-new facilities at the [University of Hawai’i–West O’ahu Academy for Creative Media](#) (ACM), extending the state’s film tax credit and prospects for new studio construction by private investors.

Hawai’i News Now (March 24): “[Experts: Pandemic’s ‘unwinnable’ toll on Hawaii highlighted leadership stumbles.](#)” Story includes an interview with Dan Boylan, former UH West O’ahu History professor.

Honolulu Civil Beat (March 25): “[Ending The Stereotypes Of Oahu's Westside.](#)” A Community Voice opinion piece — written by By Line-Noue Memea Kruse and Sa’iliemanu Lilomaiva-Doktor, who both teach in the Hawaiian-Pacific Studies program at UH West O’ahu — discussing how the media promotes these injustices within their targeted historical reporting that predominantly perpetuates the Westside narrative as the “bad side.”

Honolulu Star Advertiser* (March 26): “[Free COVID-19 testing at UH West Oahu on Friday \(March 26\).](#)” The state Health Department teamed up with the University of Hawai’i–West O’ahu to offer 200 free COVID-19 rapid tests.

**UH West O’ahu students, faculty, and staff have complimentary access to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser’s digital subscription via a new program exclusive to the campus. To activate, enter your [hawaii.edu](#) email at [staradvertiser.com/academic-pass](#).*

News from [Ka Puna O Kalo’i](#)



[Students encouraged to finish strong with useful tips in video](#) - University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu students in need of motivation during these last weeks of the semester can find that helpful push and more in “Go the Distance - Finishing Strong,” a video scheduled to be released today, March 22.

[A year of 'Coping Through COVID'](#) - Building forts with family. Doing yoga. Enjoying Zoom game nights with friends. Fishing. Gardening. Going on daily walks. Making lau lau. These are just some of the ways University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu faculty and staff have been coping through COVID-19, which has upended our world and disrupted our lives over the past year.

[UH West O'ahu students and faculty share info on health degrees, tips to success](#) - Get the 411 on health degrees from University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu faculty and students at two informational sessions, 4:30 to 6 p.m., March 31 and April 1 via Zoom.

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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