



UNIVERSITY
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WEST O'AHU

NEWS RELEASE

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**UH West O'ahu to offer new Bachelor of Education degrees in
Middle-Level and Secondary Education this spring**

Programs designed to address the need for Central and Leeward O'ahu area teachers

KAPOLEI --- This spring 2014, The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu will offer the Bachelor of Education degree with new concentrations in Middle-Level (grades 6-8) and Secondary (grades 6-12) English and Social Studies. These programs, developed to address the need for teachers in Central and Leeward area schools and throughout the State of Hawai'i, offer a strong liberal arts curriculum for those specializing in teaching the English Language Arts and/or Social Studies.

"UH West O'ahu plays an important role in raising the educational capital of our state and providing degree programs that lead to high-demand careers," said UH West O'ahu Chancellor Rockne Freitas. "Our new teacher education programs help to generate local teachers dedicated to the Central and Leeward O'ahu communities they serve."

"Education Division faculty are extremely excited about implementing our new Middle-Level and Secondary education programs in English and Social Studies," said UH West O'ahu Chair of the Education Division, Dr. Mary Heller. "Interest is high among potential teacher candidates seeking to enter the teacher workforce, especially in Leeward and Central O'ahu. We look forward to welcoming new education majors and providing high quality teacher preparation in the service of teaching and learning in grades 6-12, in addition to our established Elementary (K-6) program of study."

UH West O'ahu's Middle-Level and Secondary Education programs prepare knowledgeable, skillful, responsive educators for a global society. Studies encompass an innovative, field-based teacher preparation program, as well as service learning activities that support Central and Leeward communities.

Teacher candidates will participate in more than 200 hours of field-based coursework, culminating in a 15-week, full-time professional student teaching semester. English or Social Studies classroom teachers mentor candidates who will be placed in area schools, including Kapolei Middle & High School, Ewa Makai Middle School, Campbell High School, Nanakuli Intermediate and High School, Wheeler Middle School and Leilehua High School, and Waipahu Intermediate & High School.

The UH West O'ahu Education division is accredited by The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), a non-profit, non-governmental organization that helps establish high

quality teacher preparation. In addition to the new Middle-Level and Secondary Teacher Education programs, UH West O'ahu offers a Bachelor of Education degree with a concentration in Elementary (grades K-6) Education, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. For more information, visit <http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/academics/degrees-and-certificates/bachelor-of-education/>

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UH West O'ahu became a four-year, regional comprehensive university when it served its first class of freshmen in fall 2007. The University offers quality education, small classes and personalized attention at convenient locations. UH West O'ahu serves approximately 2,400 students at its brand new, state-of-the-art campus that opened in the City of Kapolei in 2012. For more information, visit uhwo.hawaii.edu, twitter.com/uhwestoahu, facebook.com/uhwestoahu or call (808) 689-2800 or toll-free (866) 299-8656.