



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
WEST O'AHU

NEWS RELEASE

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UH West O'ahu cooling off

KAPOLEI --- Temperatures are back in the 70s in some classrooms at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu, which installed a 120-ton mobile chiller system this morning to repair its chiller units. Staff worked until late last night to reconfigure and prep the electrical and chill-water lines to accommodate the temporary system, which was operating by 9 a.m. Electrical components of the system went down Monday morning.

"I want to apologize profusely, to the students especially, and to our faculty and staff for having to work in such uncomfortable conditions," UH West O'ahu Chancellor Rockne Freitas said. "We are working hard to remedy the situation and resume normal operations. I want to thank the faculty for adjusting their lesson plans, and staff whose quick action provided relief to the students."

Classes were left to the discretion of the faculty, who were encouraged to pursue alternative methods of instructional delivery, utilize distance education capabilities, and modify their class teaching as appropriate to accommodate for the lack of air-conditioning.

Portable units were also brought in to the classrooms to augment the temporary system. Replacement parts for the chiller units are being flown in from the East Coast and are expected to arrive this week.

"We will look into how this occurred to avoid this situation again in the future," Chancellor Freitas said. "I want to thank the students, faculty, and staff for being so cooperative and flexible during this time. Again, I apologize for your discomfort."

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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 2,700 students at its brand new, state-of-the-art campus that opened in the City of Kapolei in 2012. For more information, visit www.uhwo.hawaii.edu, call (808) 689-2800 or toll-free (866) 299-8656. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.