



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
WEST O'AHU

NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 20, 2014

Contacts: Julie Funasaki Yuen, (808) 689-2604
julieky@hawaii.edu
Public Information Officer

UH West O'ahu awarded \$14.2 million from the U.S. Department of Education Title III grant funding to be used for Native Hawaiian health and wellness facilities and student support services

KAPOLEI --- The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu was awarded a total of \$14.2 million in Title III grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education for the construction of Native Hawaiian health and wellness facilities and the further development of Native Hawaiian student support services.

The University will receive \$10 million for the PIKO Renovation Project – construction of health and wellness facilities and programs that integrate Native Hawaiian values of well-being including

- A Wellness Center that addresses holistic health and wellness programming
- A Nursing Simulation Lab for state-of-the-art training in health-related concentrations with the goal of improving Native Hawaiian health equity
- A Cultural and Performing Arts and Education Amphitheater as part of the UH West O'ahu Library for student and campus events and activities
- Community engagement and service-learning support focused on the health and well-being of the campus and community
- Academic support to increase student retention and success in health sciences

\$4.2 million will be granted to UH West O'ahu over a five-year period for the development of a Pueo Scholars Program including comprehensive student support services aimed to increase the retention and graduation rates of the University's Native Hawaiian students. The UH West O'ahu Pueo Scholars Program is a continuum of services and support starting from pre-college to graduation including

- Dual enrollment/Early Admit courses for UH West O'ahu local area high school students
- Implementation of the 'Onipa'a (steadfast) three-part summer program designed to bolster Native Hawaiian student fall enrollment after high school graduation that includes a one-credit SD 100 University Experience college preparatory course, six weeks of paid summer employment followed by a one-credit SD 101 Summer Bridge course.
- A dedicated Pueo Scholar advisor who assists new Native Hawaiian and other incoming freshmen and first-year transfer students to ease the adjustment to UH West O'ahu college life
- Additional tutors for STEM subjects who are academically capable and knowledgeable about Native Hawaiian history, culture and learning styles

- Peer mentoring for students during the first year at UH West O‘ahu
- Continuation of supplemental instruction for general education courses aimed at ensuring successful pass rates
- Increased student leadership opportunities including a three-credit upper division leadership course, workshops, seminars and projects
- Service learning opportunities included in coursework to enhance course material and promote civic engagement
- An educational pathway for students pursuing Education degrees providing related services, technology materials and supplies that assist in their persistence to graduation and becoming licensed teachers.

“As a University of Hawai‘i four-year campus with a high percentage of Native Hawaiian students, UH West O‘ahu will offer enhanced services specifically geared for Native Hawaiian student success, with this generous grant funding,” said UH West O‘ahu Chancellor, Rockne Freitas. “We are truly grateful for this opportunity to better serve all of our students through new health and wellness facilities and support programs. The goal is for UH West O‘ahu students to take this ‘ike (knowledge), graduate and go on to serve our West O‘ahu and other communities which benefits the entire state of Hawai‘i.”

U.S. Department of Education Title III programs are designed to strengthen universities and help institutions of higher education to better serve low-income students by providing funds to improve academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability. Title III grants also provide funding for institutions to improve and expand the capacity to serve Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives.

###

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.