



UNIVERSITY
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WEST O'AHU

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National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security designate UH West O'ahu as National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education

KAPOLEI --- The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu was designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, becoming the first four-year university in the state to receive this prestigious honor.

The University offers a [bachelor's degree with a concentration in information security and assurance](#), the first of its kind at a public institution in Hawai'i and the Pacific. In response to national and state needs for graduates with education in cybersecurity, UH West O'ahu, in cooperation with University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, state and federal law enforcement agencies, state security officials, and local businesses, developed an expansive security education program.

"We are honored to receive this distinction from the nation's foremost experts in cybersecurity," said UH West O'ahu Interim Chancellor Doris Ching. "The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu prides itself in offering essential programs that fill a community need and provide our graduates with opportunities for fulfilling careers where they make a difference. Our information security and assurance program is a shining example of this."

"Certification as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education is a tremendous honor for our program that will benefit our students for many years," said UH West O'ahu Assistant Professor of Information Security and Assurance, Matthew Chapman. "As our primary mission is to provide all students – including Native Hawaiian, local, and regional students – opportunities to prepare for employment in cybersecurity career fields, this certification recognizes our students as cyber defense subject matter experts, who will be leaders in protecting both Hawai'i and national critical infrastructure."

UH West O'ahu achieved National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education designation by meeting rigorous standards including the establishment of a physical and virtual center and website for cyber defense education. The University also demonstrated how its information security and assurance academic program fosters student-based cyber defense research and community outreach that is supported by experienced faculty who contribute to cybersecurity research.

[UH West O'ahu's Cyber Security Coordination Center](#) offers cybersecurity and information technology students the opportunity to work in a cyber operations center and coordinate cyber defense information with local and regional partners. Students gain research experience as network defense subject matter experts, preparing them for future employment with the federal or state government as well as private industry. The center is student-run and supports information security needs in the community, research in modern cyber conflicts, and emerging cyber threats.

Dr. Matthew Chapman will receive the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education certificate on behalf of UH West O'ahu at the National Cyber Security Summit in Huntsville, Ala. on June 8.

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Established in 1976, **the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu** is an indigenous-serving institution that offers quality education, small class sizes, and personalized attention. UH West O'ahu has the newest bachelor's degree-granting campus in the University of Hawai'i System, serving approximately 2,700 students with academic programs that emphasize interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies. UH West O'ahu commemorates its 40th anniversary in 2016. For more information, visit www.uhwo.hawaii.edu, call [\(808\) 689-2800](tel:8086892800) or toll-free [\(866\) 299-8656](tel:8662998656). Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).