

Hawai'i Awarded \$22 Million GEAR UP Grant for Students

Hawai'i P-20 took the lead in winning a seven-year, \$22 million grant to increase the number of low-income middle and high school students statewide who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education through GEAR UP Hawai'i, the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs from the U.S. Department of Education.



The federal GEAR UP program provides seven-year, matching grants to states and partnerships for services that improve access to and success in higher education at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP Hawai'i will provide services to nearly 21,000 students between 2011 and 2018

"These GEAR UP funds have allowed us to campaign for a more rigorous high school diploma to prepare our youth for success, and will allow us to continue working on, and developing new programs to achieve Hawai'i P-20's statewide goal of 55% of working age adults having a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025," said Karen Lee, University of Hawai'i Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20.

"For the first time, the new grant will allow us to serve students into their first year in college, providing them the support they need to successfully transition into postsecondary education." said Angela Jackson, GEAR UP Project Director of Hawai'i P-20. "We will continue to support middle and high schools with programs such as Running Start, which give students the skills and knowledge needed for successful transitions into higher education. GEAR UP funds also provide professional development training for teachers, assistance with financial aid and scholarships, awareness of college application requirements, and many other programs focused on supporting students' success."

12,800 STUDENTS "STEP UP" FOR SUCCESS



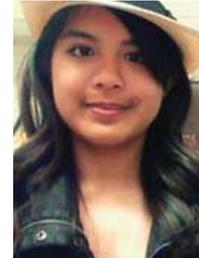
I enjoy being a Step Up Scholar because it will challenge me and give me rewards. I know this program will educate me for college and build my career.
—Marjury, Waipahu HS, Class of 2014



I enjoy being a Step Up Scholar because it helps me to track my goals and set a plan for me to do well in high school. It also gives me a higher potential to learn and prepares me to be college ready.
—Jeremy, McKinley HS, Class of 2015



Being a Step Up Scholar not only means that I am devoting time and effort for my future, but that I am intrinsically motivated in doing the best I can.
—Matthew, Kaiser HS, Class of 2013



Being a Step Up Scholar helps me to be on track and stay on track in school. It gives me a chance to reach for the stars and dream big.
—Taylor, Mililani HS, Class of 2013

The Step Up campaign, which encourages students in the 8th and 9th grades to voluntarily earn the Board of Education Recognition Diploma, has grown to over 12,800 students statewide. Each of these students signed a pledge form, along with their parents, to commit to earning the BOE Recognition Diploma, which requires a more rigorous curriculum that prepares these students for college and careers. In 2010-2011, over thirty middle and high schools pledged over fifty percent or more of their 8th and 9th grade classes to "Step Up" for their future.



KAREN LEE APPOINTED TO HAWAI'I P-20

Hawai'i P-20 welcomed Karen Lee as UH Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 in April 2011. Karen replaced Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, who became policy advisor to Governor Neil Abercrombie.



Since 2006, Karen has served as associate vice president for student affairs for the University of Hawai'i System, responsible for system-wide student affairs policies and student-related initiatives. "Karen has built strong relationships across the university working with student affairs officers and chancellors on every campus. She is widely praised for her interpersonal skills and her ability to work with diverse groups toward consensus," said Linda Johnsrud, UH Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost.

HAWAI'I P-20 SUPPORTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

In Fall 2010, to support professional development opportunities for educators of young children, Hawai'i P-20 began providing tuition assistance to 11 full-time teachers in Hawai'i P-3's Demonstration Project sites towards earning an Early Childhood PK-3 Graduate Certificate at UH. The creation of the Graduate Certificate program was the result of collaboration between Hawai'i P-20 and the UH College of Education in 2009. Going forward, Hawai'i P-20 continues to provide tuition assistance to students in the program for Fall 2011, as well as supports the submission of the program to the UH Board of Regents to make it a Board-recognized certificate.

BELIEVING THE COLLEGE DREAM WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

In April 2011, over 100 educators, counselors, and community leaders came together for the Believing the College Dream workshop. The all-day interactive training session sponsored by Hawai'i P-20 and the ECMC Foundation focused on sharing curriculum to prepare students and families in grades 4-8 for successful transitions along the academic pipeline from elementary school through middle school, high school and on to postsecondary education. The workshop is part of an on-going effort to provide educators and the community with resources to educate and encourage youth in their programs to pursue higher education.



The Hawai'i P-3 Initiative Receives Supplemental Funding and Adds Three New Demonstration Sites

Three new Hawai'i P-3 demonstration project sites joined the Farrington Complex and the Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex in years 2010 and 2011: Windward O'ahu, Honoka'a on Hawai'i Island, and the Ka'u-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex on Hawai'i Island. The addition of the three sites allows Hawai'i P-3 to increase its reach, providing innovative site-based demonstrations of early childhood and elementary school partnerships to improve access and quality early educational experiences for young children. With the addition of the three new sites, Hawai'i P-3's demonstration projects now serve 11 early childhood programs and 47 elementary schools in the State of Hawai'i.



The new demonstration sites could not have been added without the generous support of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Harold K. L. Castle Foundation, Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation, and Kamehameha Schools.

In addition, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded Hawai'i P-3 a \$1.5 million supplemental grant to transition Hawai'i P-20's current W.K. Kellogg funded efforts from capacity building toward shared public education transformation.



RAND EVALUATES THE WORK OF HAWAI'I P-3'S DEMONSTRATION SITES

The RAND Corporation concluded an evaluation of the first year of P-3 work in two initial demonstration sites: the Nānākuli-Wai'anae and the Farrington Complexes. The initial findings show a clear and unified goal for the sites (reading at grade level by third grade), strong professional development inroads for early childhood teachers, and developing partnerships between early childhood providers and DOE.



RACE TO THE TOP EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE

In August, 2011, the federal Department of Education announced a new competitive grant focused on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting States' efforts to: (1) increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs; (2) design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services; and (3) ensure that any use of assessments conforms with the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood.

New Rigorous Diploma Announced Starting with Next Year's Freshmen

Starting with the Class of 2016, all of Hawai'i's public school students will be better prepared for college and careers as the result of a more rigorous diploma unanimously passed by the Board of Education in September, 2011. The new diploma will give students the skills they need for the changing and more demanding world they will enter upon graduation by requiring proficiency in the Common Core State Standards. These rigorous standards, adopted by 44 states and the District of Columbia, are research-based and internationally benchmarked.

"This diploma will better prepare students to succeed when they graduate from high school, and it builds on the efforts behind the Step Up campaign, which gave students the opportunity to pledge to earn the Board of Education's Recognition Diploma" said Karen Lee of Hawai'i P-20. "We are extremely pleased that the Board of Education unanimously agreed on the importance of the new diploma and we will begin to wind-down the Step Up program as a result."

With just one diploma for the Class of 2016 (next year's 9th graders) and beyond, Hawai'i P-20's Step Up program will continue to be available for students through the Class of 2015 only.



MEDIA PARTNERS AND SPONSORS PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR "STEP UP" MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN

KITV and COX Radio once again joined together with Hawai'i P-20 and sponsors University of Hawai'i Federal Credit Union, The Learning Coalition and the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges to spread the word on television and radio about the importance of college and career readiness. The campaign included three television commercials, a number of radio public service announcements and web site pages.

MORE BUSINESSES STEP UP!

A number of businesses showed their support for Step Up by promoting the campaign to their employees and customers through job fairs, newsletters, customer mailers, on their websites and on television and radio. Others provided incentives to students who have already committed to the Step Up program. Our thanks go to:



HAWAII P-20 COORDINATES HAWAII COMMENCEMENT CHALLENGE

Hawai'i P-20 coordinated the inaugural Hawai'i Commencement Challenge, a voluntary challenge issued to public and charter high schools statewide to demonstrate how they prepare students for success after high school graduation, modeled after President Barack Obama's Race to the Top 2011 Commencement Challenge. Hawai'i P-20 secured sponsors for the challenge, as well as managed the application, review and judging process. The winner of the challenge, Roosevelt High School, won \$10,000 from the Learning Coalition for graduation-related expenses or college and career activities for their students, and Governor Abercrombie addressed the seniors at their commencement ceremony. Kahuku High School was presented a \$5,000 second-place prize from First Hawaiian Bank Foundation and Kaimuki High School was honored for third-place, receiving \$2,000 from Island Insurance Foundation.



