



**A**loha mai kākou!

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) for Summer 2021, we highlight how our programs illuminate our pahuhopu kahua kula (our campus values and goals). What makes UH West O'ahu unique is the commitment of our faculty and staff to deliver quality programs that meet and exceed our five pahuhopu: (1) hana lawelawe — we value taking one's knowledge and skills and using it to serve community; (2) kaiāulu — we value healthy communities where everyone feels included, welcomed, and respected; (3) mālama 'āina — we value environmental responsibility that links our love and care of land, water, and people; (4) waiwai — we value abundance that generates a culture of philanthropy and sustainable use of resources through the cultivation of quality relationships, creativity, exploration, and transdisciplinary learning; and (5) po'okela — we value excellence in education to meet the high aspirations of student, faculty, and staff as we address the needs of our community.

In this season's report, we share the tremendous efforts, the creativity, the magic of what we have learned that has made us stronger! This fall we begin to return to campus motivated by our achievements. In this report, read more about the work of our enrollment management and student financial aid teams to serve more students as well as the reinvigoration of island staples 'ulu (breadfruit) and niu (coconut) in the newly planted Uluniu Grove. Learn more about our innovative use of digital platforms through the IT and Office of Distance Learning partnership. And, as our faculty, staff, and students return to campus, they will be welcomed by a newly constructed outdoor learning space and our new Creative Media Student Production facility with many innovative spaces and a special place called the "Hatchery."

We hope that this issue of our quarterly report inspires you to think of how you might become more active in supporting UH West O'ahu's community of diverse learners!

E mālama pono!

Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham  
Chancellor, UH West O'ahu

## Our Pahuhopu

Learn more about our Strategic Action Plan at [westoahu.hawaii.edu/strategicplan](https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/strategicplan).

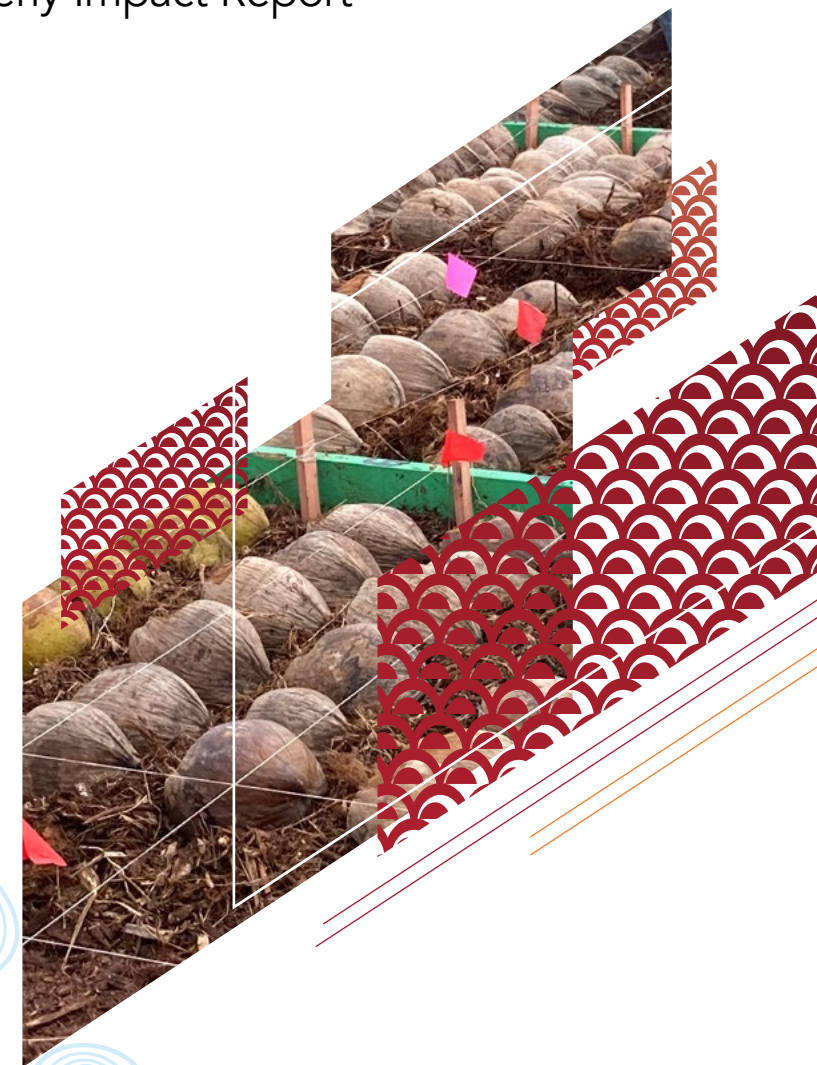


Summer 2021

## Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
WEST O'AHU

The University of Hawai'i is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



## ❖ Waiwai

### New outdoor space to serve as gathering place

A gathering area for everything from outside classes to hula performances and other engaging activities will soon be open to the UH West O‘ahu community.

The Nāulu Center Outdoor Learning Space at UH West O‘ahu is a flexible multipurpose performance and event area for educational and cultural activities, including orientations, career fairs, music and dance events, and speaking events. It demonstrates UH West O‘ahu’s value of Waiwai — abundance that develops a culture of philanthropy and sustainable use of resources through the cultivation of quality relationships, creativity, exploration, and transdisciplinary learning.

The Outdoor Learning Space features a metal shade structure that incorporates power, telecommunications, WiFi, audiovisual capabilities for sound, and theatrical lighting. Areas within the shade structure and surrounding plaza now have spaces for collaborative gathering. Existing planters were modified to incorporate bench seating and convenience power outlets, and enhanced with new lei-friendly plantings.

Construction of the Outdoor Learning Space was funded by the Title III Po‘o ‘Ike Kino & ‘Ohana (PIKO) Project.



Indrajit Gunasekara arranges the niu seedlings in tightly packed rows.

## ❖ Mālama ‘Āina

### Providing community gifts through cultivation of land

UH West O‘ahu’s Niu Nursery and Uluniu Grove are ideal examples of the institution’s value of Mālama ‘Āina — environmental responsibility that links love and care of land, water, and people.

The nursery and grove are part of the Uluniu Project, which aims at Hawaiian cultural revitalization, environmental conservation, and local food production. The project was established in Fall 2017 by UH West O‘ahu Financial Aid Officer Indrajit Gunasekara and Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer, Konohiki of Kūlana o Kapolei. Their team gathered a community of scholars and indigenous practitioners to connect and strengthen cultural practices with science-based applications to highlight ‘ulu (breadfruit) and niu (coconut) potential within the Hawaiian Islands.

Among the goals of both the nursery and grove are to produce meaningful gifts to enhance relationships between UH West O‘ahu and community partners, and that highlight UH West O‘ahu’s institutional values.

## ❖ Hana Lawelawe

### Helping students with financial pathway to college

Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) can be complicated and confusing, especially for students and families navigating a long list of college entrance requirements.

Helping students fill out the paperwork that qualifies them for federal aid is part of UH West O‘ahu’s value of Hana Lawelawe, or service to the community. Financial aid specialist Frank Green and UH West O‘ahu offer financial aid assistance for high school students statewide. At events like Financial Aid Nights, Green and staff assist students with completing the FAFSA and answering tough questions.

While not all students who participate in training will ultimately choose to enroll at UH West O‘ahu, the need for financial aid assistance is so important that the campus sees it as a way to serve the community.

“Financial aid is all about access,” Green said. “There are lots of reasons why a student would not attend college, but for those who do, money should not be the obstacle.”

## ❖ Po‘okela

### Hatching ideas through creative collaboration

We stand at the precipice of a global technological revolution that will fundamentally change the way we live and work. As UH West O‘ahu welcomes people back to campus, the new Creative Media Student Production Facility is envisioned to provide innovative spaces and opportunities that hopes to encourage collaboration, creativity, and forward thinking.

One such space in particular is the “Hatchery” – Where Ideas Hatch. In the Hatchery, brainstorming sessions that consist of industry professionals, students and alumni, faculty, and community members are welcome. In alignment with UH West O‘ahu’s value of Po‘okela, or educational excellence, they will use creativity, media and transdisciplinary discovery, design, and innovation to confront the complex challenges of our times.

This space promotes active learning for Creative Media students by focusing on problem solving and creativity in a student-centered learning environment allowing them to be better prepared for the future.

A computer rendering of what the “Hatchery” space would look like.



Photo courtesy of Sharla Hanaoka

## ❖ Kaiāulu

### Developing community through various channels

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced most of UH West O‘ahu operations and services online, the campus relied on its strength of being a leader within the University of Hawai‘i System in distance education.

UH West O‘ahu launched several solutions using online technologies. One, the Virtual Front Desk, offered students and guests the opportunity to “talk” to someone using Zoom by stopping by online and having questions answered live over the video platform. Another need that was quickly identified was counseling services to address the mental health issues exacerbated by COVID-19. The campus Mental Health Services team offered online support groups for students to meet new people, build friendships, and collaborate with others on common successes and struggles. The Office of Distance Learning developed videos and training resources intended to support faculty and staff.

As part of UH West O‘ahu’s value of developing Kaiāulu, or community – whether that is in person or online, the campus recognizes the need to integrate and assimilate more of online services on a permanent basis. This will provide opportunities for students, such as those on the neighbor islands or those who prefer the flexibility that online courses offer, to be integrated into the campus community from wherever they are.



The new Outdoor Learning Space in the campus plaza fronting Campus Center.