



Aloha mai kākou!

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Spring 2022, we highlight our student veterans and our efforts to support their aspirations for higher degrees that will launch them into the next chapter of their journey. Knowing that providing a welcoming and essential home for military veterans is a key to their success, we recently opened the Veterans Center of Excellence, a resource and a networking center that supports their transition to college life. Read about veteran student Leland Henobio who speaks to the value of the center. He brings valuable skills and attributes developed in the military to his college classes, such as a strong work ethic, an understanding of global conflicts and issues as well as perspectives on diverse cultures. His global experience enhances our community of learners.

We also introduce you to Daniel Hironaka, enrollment services officer and VA school certifying official with our Office of the Registrar. His work is crucial in connecting veteran students to their benefits and he also serves as a link to their academic advising. He works hard to provide veteran-specific materials, conduct orientations targeted to their needs and partner with community services to support students and their families. Veteran students receive educational training and Vice Chancellor Jeffrey Moniz provides an overview of our Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) that prepares them for high-demand jobs. We honor our student veterans as they have consistently demonstrated their goodwill through volunteerism, civic engagement, philanthropic activities, and generosity of spirit.

There are many ways that you can support our veteran students to overcome barriers and become leaders in our communities. 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

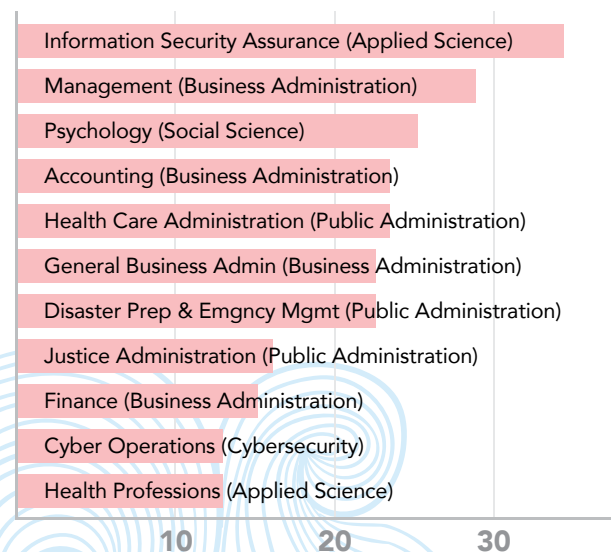
Left and cover: A 3-D printed bust of a soldier and a row of flags representing various branches of the military located in the Veterans Center of Excellence.

UH West O'ahu Veteran's Support Fund

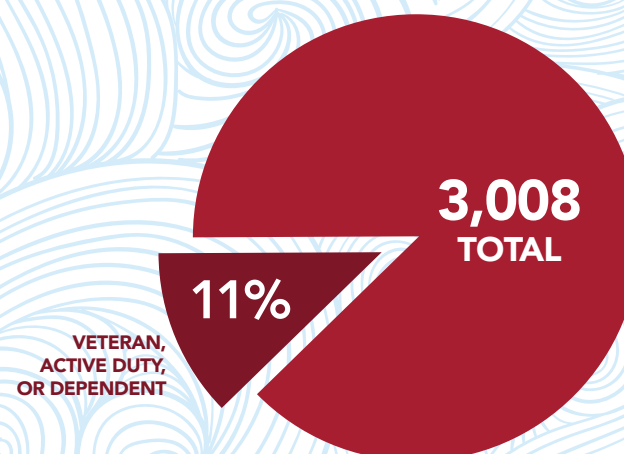
UH West O'ahu is dedicated to supporting our military and veteran students. Your gift will support UH West O'ahu efforts to support, encourage and inspire those who have served bravely and sacrificed much.

Visit: giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/12990104

Top 10 UH West O'ahu Programs for Military Students



UH West O'ahu Students



Data for Fall 2021.

Spring 2022

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
WEST O'AHU

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

One-stop shop

The UH West O'ahu Veterans Center of Excellence, which opened in spring 2022, provides a space on campus for veteran students like Leland Henobio to access resources and tools to succeed in college, to connect with others, and to simply unwind.

"The Veterans Center of Excellence has provided me with a comfortable place where I can focus on the tasks for the day, relax, and network with other veterans to keep up to date with current veterans' benefits," said Henobio, a Public Administration major who served in the Army National Guard.

The center is a "one-stop shop" for veteran students, active duty students, and dependents, said Dr. Richard Jones, interim director of the center. The center's goals include helping these students navigate registration and secure educational benefits, as well as being a place where they can grab a refreshment, talk with a counselor, access computer workstations or laptops, do 3-D design and printing, and more.

Henobio, a Makakilo resident, added, "School can be a tough place to transition after military service. Entering a civilian work environment comes with its challenges. At the vet center, you'll find people with similar backgrounds and be able to learn how they have adapted."



The Veterans Center of Excellence

Campus Center, Room C-138



Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday:
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact uhwovets@hawaii.edu or 808-689-2961

Education and training for veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently approved the University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu as a training provider under a program that will help provide career opportunities for veteran students. As a provider under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP), UH West O'ahu can offer education and training for high-demand jobs to veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're very pleased to be approved as a provider," said Dr. Jeffrey Moniz, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UH West O'ahu. "Becoming a participating VRRAP educational institution fits very well with our growing efforts to address the needs of our veteran students."

VRRAP covers education and training programs — including certificate programs — approved under the GI Bill™ and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses that lead to high-demand jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor determines what's considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

Nine certificate programs out of 11 total at UH West O'ahu have been approved for VRRAP:

- ▶ Applied Forensic Anthropology
- ▶ Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management
- ▶ Gender Studies
- ▶ Hawaiian & Indigenous Health & Healing
- ▶ Health Care Administration
- ▶ Long-Term Care
- ▶ Risk Management & Insurance
- ▶ Substance Abuse & Addictions Studies
- ▶ Sustainability Issues

Those eligible for the VRRAP can get up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill™ rates. With UH West O'ahu's inclusion, all UH campuses are now on the Department of Veterans Affairs list of approved educational programs.

For questions, contact the UH West O'ahu Veterans Center of Excellence at uhwovets@hawaii.edu or 808-689-2961.



Crucial support services for college success

For veteran students, understanding and accessing the campus' support services and resources available to them is crucial for their college success. Among those on staff at UH West O'ahu who are dedicated to helping veteran students is recently hired Daniel Hironaka, enrollment services officer and VA school certifying official with the Office of the Registrar.

"I assist our veteran and military connected students in using their GI Bill™ benefits to attend UH West O'ahu and certify their enrollment each semester if they intend to use their GI Bill™ benefits," Hironaka said.

GI Bill™ benefits help qualifying veterans and their family members get money to cover all or some of the costs for college, graduate school, and training programs, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hironaka said in addition to his duties as the VA school certifying official, Student Affairs also assists veterans and military connected students via academic advising.

"Advising services assist me during my certification process by ensuring that students are taking the necessary courses for their degree programs," Hironaka said. "GI Bill™ benefits only cover courses required for a degree program, so they are helpful in ensuring that UH West O'ahu is complying with VA regulations."

Visit westoahu.hawaii.edu/registrar/veteran-students/ to learn about student responsibilities for VA educational benefits, access veteran student certification forms, apply for VA scholarships, get details about other resources, and more.

Veteran Affairs Questions?

For questions or more information, contact uhwova@hawaii.edu or 808-689-2900.