



## Aloha mai kākou!

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Summer 2022, we highlight our health professions programs and brilliant graduates! Our programs offer students a focused, effective curriculum including courses in natural sciences, social sciences, and liberal arts, as well as application-based coursework in healthcare. Students follow clear, specialized pathways to healthcare careers and fulfill potential prerequisites necessary for graduate and/or professional school in medicine and health sciences. To learn more go to our website at [westoahu.hawaii.edu](https://westoahu.hawaii.edu).

For example, we are introduced to alum Aiga Ale, a passionate woman with a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and commitment to her community who is completing her graduate degree in pharmacy at the University of Texas at Tyler. In addition, we meet current student, Kiri Hirota, who recently earned top honors in the "cultural diversities and disparities in healthcare" category at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Hawai'i Health Professionals Conference. Finally, we are delighted to announce that we are launching this fall 2022 our renewed Pre-Nursing Pathway in partnership with UH Mānoa's Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing. To learn more about this program please go to [westoahu.hawaii.edu/prenursing](https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/prenursing).

There are many ways that you can support our students in the health professions and our renewed pre-nursing pathway. 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!

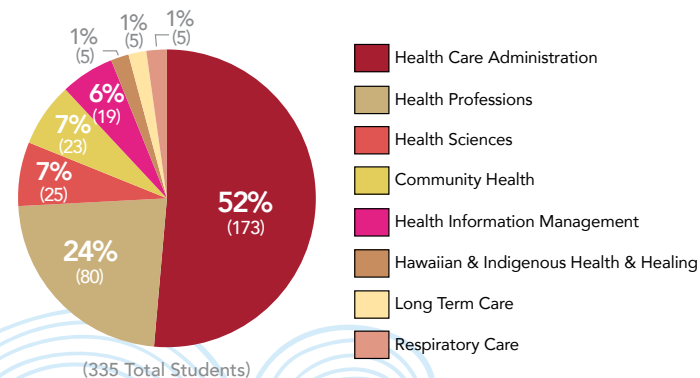
Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham  
Chancellor, UH West O'ahu

## Health Programs by the Numbers

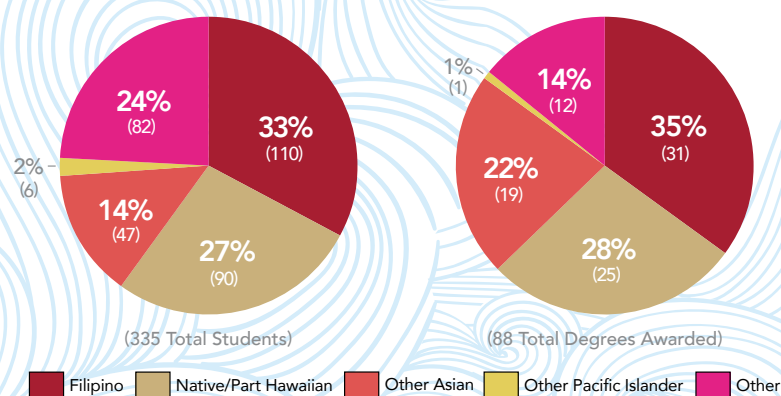
5 Largest Bachelors Degree Concentrations by Enrollment



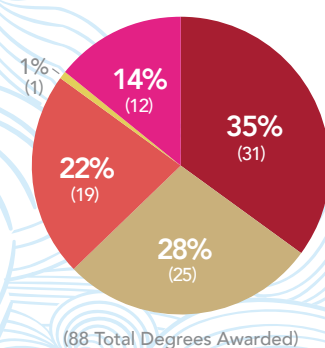
Headcount Enrollment



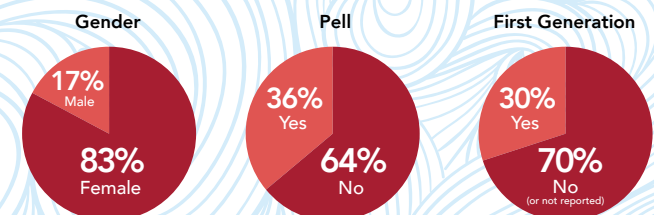
Headcount Enrollment  
by Ethnicity



Bachelors Degrees Earned  
by Ethnicity



Headcount Enrollment by Admission Type



Summer 2022

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I  
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## Recognizing Cultural Diversity in Healthcare

It was a first-place win for first-time competitor Kiri Hirota, a UH West O'ahu student who earned top honors for her category at the 17th annual Hawai'i HOSA—Future Health Professionals Virtual State Leadership Conference held Feb. 28 to March 4.

"The 'cultural diversities and disparities in healthcare' category, in a nutshell, focuses on cultural competence and the promotion of healthier lifestyles," said Hirota, of Wahiawā. "I chose this category for the competition because it is a topic that stood out to me."

Hirota, who is majoring in Public Administration with a double concentration in Healthcare Administration and Community Health, said she liked the idea of gaining more knowledge in this area. The category aims to inspire competitors to learn about cultural diversity, identify disparities in healthcare, and understand cultural differences.

HOSA, formerly known as Health Occupation Students of America and now known as HOSA: Future Health Professionals, is an international, student-led organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Hirota joined UH West O'ahu's HOSA club this past school year. At HOSA's virtual state conference, she was one of 900 student participants ranging from middle school, high school, and college levels. Her competition involved a written test with a tie-breaker essay question.

Hirota said she enjoyed the experience.

"I would like to encourage other students to participate in the next competition if they have the time and opportunity to try it," she said.

## Pathways to Nursing

A new initiative beginning in fall 2022 at the UH West O'ahu addresses Hawai'i's nursing shortage by offering an opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in nursing.

UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa's Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing have partnered together for the new UH West O'ahu Bachelor of Applied Science, Health Professions with a Pre-Nursing Pathway.

"It is the first step to becoming a nurse," said Dr. Rebecca Romine, assistant professor of Biology at UH West O'ahu and co-lead for the Pre-Nursing Pathway. "The program prepares students to be eligible to apply to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at UH Mānoa."

Through the Pre-Nursing Pathway, students will spend 1½ years (three semesters) completing pre-professional general education and foundational courses, including communication, psychology, English, statistics, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, and biochemistry. The program will help students gain the foundational science knowledge and practice the clinical skills needed to grow into clinicians and make an impact in the nursing profession and in the health of their community, Romine said.

"The UH West O'ahu Pre-Nursing Pathway includes all the coursework and clinical experiences necessary to apply to a BSN program, but as it is housed on the UH West O'ahu campus, it is taught with a unique culture-based perspective in which concepts important to Hawai'i and health within our community are integrated into the coursework," Romine noted.

### Waihona Ala Kahu Ma'i UH West O'ahu Nursing Pathway



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FOUNDATION

Our new Pre-Nursing Pathway enables students to complete all general education, prerequisite, and degree coursework for a UH Mānoa Bachelor of Science in Nursing on the UH West O'ahu campus. With your gift to UH West O'ahu, our dedicated students, together with our renowned faculty, can:

- ▶ Overcome financial barriers to earn degrees in high-need areas through scholarships.
- ▶ Utilize specialized equipment to simulate real-world experiences.
- ▶ Access to PPE for pre-nursing and nursing students as well as lab supplies.



Want to give? Visit: [giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/13007604](https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/13007604)



## Providing Perspective

With a new degree from UH West O'ahu and her path set on becoming a clinical pharmacist, Aiga Ale is clear on her next aspirations.

"My long-term goal is to contribute to mitigating health disparities by working in rural or underserved communities and encouraging more Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to enter pharmacy or the healthcare field in general," Ale said.

She continued, "Diversifying the healthcare field is one of the keys to eliminating bias and providing different perspectives that can help with caring for our people."

Ale is familiar with achieving big things, so it's easy to believe she will reach whatever goal she sets.

Among her most notable accomplishments as a UH West O'ahu student was becoming the first organic chemistry tutor at the No'eau Center.

"I feel like as a Sāmoan woman, it was a big accomplishment because I'm hoping it'll inspire more Pacific Islanders to go into STEM," said Ale, of 'Ewa Beach.

Ale received her Bachelor of Applied Science with a concentration in Health Professions from UH West O'ahu in spring 2022. In the fall, Ale will attend the Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas at Tyler.

"My immediate goal is to become a clinical pharmacist, do my two years of residency, and return to Hawai'i to take care of our people in rural or underserved areas," Ale said. "There's a small percentage of Pacific Islanders, specifically Sāmoans, in the pharmacy industry, so I'm happy to bring my cultural perspective into this field."