



Aloha mai kākou!

We know that “global education” is not an “add on” to our college curriculum. Instead it is a purposeful foundation provided across all our degree areas that prepares our students to fully participate in shaping a better shared future. At UH West O’ahu, we cultivate a strong sense of self and appreciation for cultural diversity, we advance unity and good relations with our global neighbors, and we affirm social justice and human rights. We intentionally create opportunities for our students to develop global competencies which include knowledge, disposition, and skills that help them understand and navigate the complexities of our world. Perhaps primary in this effort is to ensure students embrace the value of life-long learning that will support their ability to act in an ever-changing global landscape and prepare them to use their knowledge and innovative skills to shape a better world.

In this quarter’s Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō’ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Spring 2024, we introduce the expansion efforts of our Office of Global Engagement. Additionally, we share our strengthened partnership with our neighbor Hawai’i Tokai International College and their home system in Japan. Also, we provide a synopsis of two new agreements with the Japan Aviation College Hokkaido, Japan, and with Enderun Colleges in the Philippines. Our academic, cultural, student-transfer, and study abroad programs are growing!

There are many ways you can support and strengthen our UH West O’ahu efforts to grow global education opportunities for our students! We hope that this issue of our quarterly report inspires you to think of how you might support global program development and student study abroad opportunities. Please help us to ensure our students fulfill their global dreams. They are our future professionals and world leaders!

E mālama pono!

Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham

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



Inset photo and cover photo courtesy of JAA.

Global Engagement a top focus

UH West O’ahu’s Office of Global Engagement reflects the university’s focus on developing learning opportunities for students and establishing pathways for international students to study at the UH West O’ahu campus to complete their bachelor’s degrees.

The Office of Global Engagement, formerly the Office of International Relations and Programs, has various partnerships with higher education institutions worldwide, connecting UH West O’ahu communities around the globe.

The office has numerous Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with universities in South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines, as well as 2+2 Transfer and Articulation Agreements with Japan Aviation Academy and Philippines-based Enderun Colleges, who will be able to send students to UH West O’ahu in the near future. The 2+2 Transfer and Articulation Program is a degree pathway where students can study for two years at their home university, and two years at UH West O’ahu.

Gian Otoman, International Programs Coordinator with the Office of Global Engagement, also noted some of the opportunities they offer to engage UH West O’ahu students.

“Right now we are currently offering study abroad and exchange programs for students wanting to study in either Japan or South Korea,” Otoman said. “We hope to expand these opportunities to more destinations in the future.”

Additionally, the office is in the process of establishing an English Language Institute (ELI) program at UH West O’ahu.

“This non-credit ELI program will provide a new pathway to our credit programs at UH West O’ahu for prospective international students,” Otoman said. “The ELI program will be an extension of our current international programs and will be similar to programs offered at UH Mānoa through their HELP (Hawai’i English Language Program) and NICE (New Intensive Courses in English) programs.”

This ELI program at UH West O’ahu plans to serve the first group of 2+2 Transfer and Articulation Program students from Japan Aviation Academy.

For more information about the Office of Global Engagement at UH West O’ahu, visit westoahu.hawaii.edu/academics/international/ or email uhwointl@hawaii.edu.



Chancellor Benham and two UH West O’ahu staff members meet with Tokai University administrators.

Spring 2024

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō’ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
WEST O’AHU

Ke Kulanui o Hawai’i—O’ahu Komohana

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

UH West O'ahu signs first international articulation agreement

UH West O'ahu signed the first of what is expected to be many agreements with international colleges to bring students from abroad to study in Hawai'i and learn about indigenous culture while gaining the skills needed for their future careers.

In the summer of 2023, UH West O'ahu and Japan Aviation College Hokkaido (JAA) signed a Transfer and Articulation Agreement to establish a partnership that allows Japanese students to seamlessly transfer and earn their bachelor's degree in Hawai'i.

"We look forward to bringing JAA students to our campus to enhance their education with an indigenous-grounded curriculum in our top-notch business program," UH West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham said. "This valuable partnership will provide our own students with the chance to interact with an international community to expand their global knowledge and understanding."

Students who complete an associate degree at Japan Aviation College Hokkaido are guaranteed acceptance with sophomore standing to UH West O'ahu in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality and Tourism, Management, or Marketing. The JAA students will have to meet international transfer student requirements, including passing an approved English proficiency exam.

The partnership promotes international education, cultural exchange, and collaboration in areas of common interest and benefit to both institutions. Starting in 2025, qualifying JAA students will transfer to UH West O'ahu.

"Japan and Hawai'i have a deep historical and cultural relationship," said JAA Chancellor Tadahiro Umezawa. "In international resorts and commercial areas, there are opportunities for Japanese students to learn. This is extremely meaningful and I hope that it will have a positive impact on the future of students."



UH West O'ahu and JAA representatives commemorate partnership.



Enderun Colleges and UH West O'ahu administrators pose for a group shot.

Partnership with Enderun Colleges

UH West O'ahu and Enderun Colleges recently signed a Transfer and Articulation Agreement to establish a partnership that allows students from the Philippines-based institution to seamlessly transfer and earn their bachelor's degree in Hawai'i.

UH West O'ahu and Enderun Colleges have agreed to establish a "2+2 Transfer and Articulation Program," under which Enderun students who fulfill the prescribed course of study will be guaranteed acceptance with junior standing to UH West O'ahu by the Business Administration Program into the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in General Business Administration, or the Creative Media Program into the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Media with a concentration in General Creative Media. Students transferring from Enderun after two years can complete the Bachelor of Arts degree from UH West O'ahu within two years' residence in Hawai'i.

"We are delighted to be partnering with Enderun Colleges currently in the areas of Business and Creative Media," said UH West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham. "Their exceptional work in International Hospitality Management, specializing in Hotel Administration or Culinary Arts, aligns with our BA (Bachelor of Arts) and BAS (Bachelor of Applied Science) degrees. The additional pathway into Creative Media will provide students with professional skills that will lead to bright career opportunities."

Starting in 2026, qualifying Enderun Colleges students will articulate to UH West O'ahu for an in-person experience that will expose them to indigenous culture, place-based learning, and a robust academic curriculum.

To commemorate the partnership, Enderun Colleges Chief Operations Officer Daniel Perez and Dean of the College of Architecture and Design Nikki Tayag visited UH West O'ahu on Nov. 24, 2023.

Tokai University collaborations spark opportunities

UH West O'ahu and Tokai University, especially neighbor Hawai'i Tokai International College (HTIC), enjoy a partnership that provides quality higher education to students in Kapolei on the west side of the island of O'ahu. The collaborations span academic affairs, student affairs, and administrative affairs to provide students on both campuses opportunities to learn and expand their experiences. Access to both campuses means an exchange of cultural knowledge and activities that result in a global learning environment.

New collaborations include an agreement that allows UH West O'ahu students, including study abroad and exchange students, to utilize the HTIC dormitories. In the past, the campuses shared a few academic courses and offered student engagement efforts.

Recently, UH West O'ahu sent study abroad students for five-week and ten-week advanced language and culture courses at Tokai University Sapporo Campus.

"I loved living in Japan for a bit as it allowed me to connect with my culture and also practice my independence," UH West O'ahu student Lindsey Millerd said. "Studying abroad is really great because you get to experience the excitement of a whole new place, but you're also with a really solid support system."

Other potential opportunities include academic partnerships with other Tokai University campuses located in Shonan (Tokyo) and Sapporo. One such possibility is the creation of a joint academic program with Tokai Shonan's College of Science and Technology and UH West O'ahu's Academy for Creative Media. This program would be centered around Creative Media, involving students from both campuses taking in-person joint creative media classes for four to six weeks.

These strengthening ties allow both institutions to offer their students cultural and educational possibilities that expand their global engagement.



UH West O'ahu student Lindsey Millerd during her study abroad stay.