University of Hawai'i’s (UH’s) Strategic Directions, which guides UH’s priorities through the year 2021, calls for increasing educational offerings and pathways for students. Distance learning extends education and training opportunities beyond traditional campus settings through a variety of technologies (online, cable TV, interactive TV, or a combination of delivery methods). In an island state like Hawai'i, harnessing technology to deliver programs is critical to addressing state workforce needs. UH campuses are able to expand access through University and Education Centers which reside in the communities they serve.

UH has a robust distance learning program with 58 degree and certificate programs. But to get more students into college, staying in college, and graduating from college, UH needs to expand its distance learning presence.

To do so, UH will...

- expand programs by focusing on degrees that meet state workforce needs
- develop a marketing and branding program that disseminates information on existing and new degree programs
- establish a full suite of support services (admissions, financial aid, academic advising, etc.) for students in distance learning programs
- ensure quality in our distance learning programs through professional and curricular development and assessment

UH is committed to providing current and future generations access to a superb higher education, regardless of physical location. With support from the state legislature, faster implementation of distance learning initiatives may be realized.

Number of UH distance learning students across the islands, Fall 2016

31% of UH students are enrolled in at least one of 1,251 distance learning courses offered throughout the state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Distance Learning Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>5,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maui</td>
<td>1,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kauai</td>
<td>1,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molokai</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanai</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Island</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 823 students enrolled in UH courses do not reside in Hawai'i

For more information: [http://www.hawaii.edu/dl/](http://www.hawaii.edu/dl/)
University and Education Centers play a vital role in the delivery of programs

Three University Centers (Kaua‘i, Maui, and West Hawai‘i) and six Education Centers (Wai‘anae, Hāna, Lāna‘i, Moloka‘i, West Maui, and North Hawai‘i) work closely with UH campuses to deliver distance programs statewide.

The Centers provide distance learning students with academic and technical assistance, advising, exam proctoring, and other services to help them meet their educational goals and objectives.

Students receive degrees or certificates awarded by the UH campus offering the program of study via distance.

The Centers are an integral part of UH’s distance learning network, extending the reach of campuses and maximizing the use of academic resources across the system.

Brent Nakihei knows how hard life can be after living a life of drugs, alcohol and incarceration. “When I was released from jail, I thought to myself, there must be something better than this.”

In 2005, he began his educational journey registered with the UH Maui College–Moloka‘i Education Center. The center serves Moloka‘i residents by providing a wide-range of credit and non-credit courses, certificate and degree programs as part of the UH Maui College. Brent excelled in his studies, earning two associate in science degrees and a master’s degree in social work at UH Mānoa.

He is now certified as a Substance Abuse Counselor working at the Hale Ho'okupa'a Substance Abuse Treatment Center to help people dealing with the same problems he once faced.

"Education is very important because one, I have a voice, two, it is a gift to myself and my kūpuna, and three, my kids can see that if daddy can do it, they can too," added Brent.

http://www.pauahi.org/2016/01/19/brent-nakihei-has-a-voice-through-higher-education/

“Although I started my college career just after graduating high school, various circumstances interrupted my process and I found myself struggling to restart college again in my 30’s. Being employed in the social services field and having a small child further increased the pressure to further my education. Thankfully through the UH West O'ahu's distance education program, I was able to take classes from my own home in Kona while I worked full time and raised my child.”

“In 2015, I achieved my goal and graduated from UH West O'ahu with my bachelor of arts in social sciences. After I received my degree, I was offered a promotion as a program manager at my agency and also received a raise. Thanks to my newfound confidence with those accomplishments, I was inspired to apply for graduate school and as of August 2016, I am now pursuing my master's in counseling.”

– Aurora Delaries

For more information: http://www.hawaii.edu/campuses/learning-centers/