SEARCh Symposium Summary Report

Introduction. The Hawai‘i STEM Education Assets and Resources Clearinghouse (SEARCh) project is a new initiative to identify, record and publish a Hawaii inventory of projects, personnel and assets related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The purpose of this initiative is to:

1. Gain a better understanding of the programs available to STEM students in Hawaii.
2. Identify key personnel who are leading efforts in STEM Education in Hawaii.
3. Identify opportunities for more synergy within and between STEM education projects.
4. Identify project overlaps and reduce competitiveness for students and resources.
5. More accurately report the effort and emphasis that Hawaii has placed on STEM Education to internal and external audiences.

The initial phase of SEARCh project brings a focus on STEM Education projects specifically to the University of Hawai‘i.

SEARCh Symposium The inaugural event to kick off this initiative was a SEARCh Symposium held on September 19, 2014 at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The Symposium had 41 participants from 15 UH Schools, Colleges and Campuses throughout the UH System. Participants attended a 1 day-long meeting to discuss:

- The SEARCh initiative at UH and to identified a STEM Education “Champion” for their institution.
- To present highlights of the specialized work at these institutions to enhance STEM Education.
- Efforts to recruit and retain UH STEM students.
- Strategies to catalog, capture and disseminate STEM Education projects and SEARCh highlights throughout the UH.
- How to maintain a SEARCh Community of Practice and prolong the dialog for the UH System.

Next Steps. The Interim Director of STEM Education will coordinate with the SEARCh institution Champions to catalog STEM Education Projects, Assets and Resources, and will meet regularly to create and update the database and will establish a website dedicated to the STEM Education Community of Practice at UH. The Director will also discuss with UH administrators how the use of existing databases in the UH Office of Research Services and the UH Foundation to identify SEARCh information. Student help will be employed to support the SEARCh efforts.

A number of important themes emerged from the SEARCh Symposium discussion that resonated with a large majority of the participants and will require further dialog. UH STEM Education Pathways from high school to graduate school should be strengthened,
focused on the critical transitions, to provide seamless articulation in Hawai‘i. Pathway
development should be modeled after the success that UH has experienced with the
ASNS degree used in Pre-engineering pathway. Other themes include the importance of
UH STEM Education Centers as one-stop shop for STEM students, and the role UH
institutions can play in STEM Teacher Licensing in Hawai‘i.

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