Authorization to Plan a New Academic Program

Campus/Division: University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu – Division of Social Sciences

Planning Committee: Chair - Dr. Monique Mironesco, Assistant Professor, Political Science, UHWO; Gary Maunakea-Forth, Farm Director - MA‘O Farms; Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Executive Director - MA‘O Farms; Kamuela Enos, Director of Social Enterprise - Kauhale Consortium.

Degree/Certificate Proposed: BA in Social Sciences with Concentration in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems.

Need for Program/Program Description:

Program Learning Outcomes: Students graduating with a concentration in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems from UHWO will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of social justice issues surrounding food security in Hawai‘i, especially as they relate to Native Hawaiian issues in a local and global context;
- Demonstrate the scientific and agricultural knowledge needed to operate a sustainable farming operation or related venture;
- Apply business and marketing knowledge necessary to operate a sustainable farming operation or related venture.

Expected Outcomes for UHWO and Community

The various expected outcomes of the HAIFS program as they relate to community engagement between UHWO and the larger community follow from each other and then loop back around to create a reciprocal relationship between the farm enterprise activities and the academic endeavor, the programmatic infrastructure and the surrounding community of underserved students, and the institution’s larger workforce development mission and its impact upon the community. The latter then serves to inform future development and improvement of the HAIFS program at UHWO.

Justification of Program

The timing of the concentration in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems (HAIFS), presents a unique opportunity to build upon and revitalize our existing academic programs at UHWO to 1) serve greater numbers of community members, especially those of native Hawaiian ancestry; 2) address local and global challenges of food security and sustainability; and 3) provide a venue for increased community engagement and participation.

The new UHWO campus will play a pivotal role in solving Hawai‘i’s food insecurity issues. UHWO is dedicated to addressing this situation and is committed to creating the Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems (HAIFS) concentration, an applied academic program aiming to move Hawai‘i toward ecologically friendly methods of agriculture, via three strategies that include 1) the development of a concentration within the Social Sciences in Agroecology and eventually an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s Degree program in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems (HAIFS), 2) a 6-month intensive internship in tropical organic farm management on a newly developed 10.5 acre on-campus organic farm with the collaboration of MA‘O Farms, and 3) the development of a teaching and learning venue for agricultural education and food production that will benefit the food supply chain for the campus and community-at-large.
**Institution’s Commitment to Project**

MA’O Organic Farm’s geographic proximity to the new UHWO site will enable the partnership to continue to flourish through the farm venture on the campus. We are closing the loop on our workforce development mission, by engaging in communities of practice through academics, service-learning options for faculty at UHWO, as well as a built-in practicum site for students in the new HAIFS concentration. This venture will enable both organizations to encourage students to thrive in an educational setting dedicated to experiential learning.

**Internal and External Factors/Needs for this Program**

The sustainability of this program will be achieved via:

- The commitment of a wide-range of faculty to teach within the interdisciplinary BA program, and the allocation of key staff to be “champions” of the program;
- Linking of the HAIFS concentration to identified State objectives that include an imperative to increase supply of locally produced foods, as well as the alleviation of hunger and food insecurity.

**Projected Numbers of Interested Students per Year**

The program is greatly needed both in the campus-serving target community and in the State of Hawai’i. Once the program has become established, our goal is that the HAIFS will be accepting approximately 64 undergraduate students per academic year, with 20 participants accepted into the internship programs. Numbers of student participants are projected below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source*</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
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<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>112</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*There are two sources for students who would be interested in the HAIFS concentration in Social Sciences in the table above. The first set of students labeled as “MA’O” students would be students coming up through the MA’O Youth Leadership Training (YLT)/LCC Community Food Systems program who would enroll at UHWO after having completed their AA degree at LCC with a certificate in Community Food Systems. The second set of students labeled “UHWO” students would be students enrolling in the HAIFS program independently of the MA’O YLT program. The table shows slow and steady growth in the numbers of students in enrolled in the HAIFS concentration throughout the five year probationary period of the concentration. While students are likely to graduate before 5 years, especially if they have already received their AA degree, the total number of students of 112 is an estimate of the number of students coming from both MA’O and UHWO educational pipelines with the opening of the new campus and its relative proximity to the Wai’anae Coast over the first five years. The establishment of the 10 acre organic farm on campus, starting with the second half of the first year of the HAIFS concentration will attract UHWO students who would not necessarily have heard about the MA’O YLT program since it will be a showpiece for sustainability within the university and the surrounding communities.
Current MA’O students are graduating iteratively from their cohort-driven leadership training with their Associate’s degree and Certificate in Community Food Systems. Requests for enrollment to UHWO has been increasing as MA’O students are retained and graduate from the Leeward Community College providing demand for 4-year institutions like UHWO to recruit students for their academic programs. Four students graduating from Leeward Community College through the YLT program are already interested in attending UHWO at the new campus in Fall 2012, and are furthermore interested in pursuing their degrees in this concentration. MA’O currently serves 500 students yearly, from Wai’anae Intermediate all the way through LCC. Of course, not every single one of them will attend UHWO with plans to concentrate in HAIFS, but as it stands, UHWO and HAIFS stand to make tremendous gains in student numbers due to MA’O’s institutionalization of an educational pipeline going from intermediate school all the way through a Bachelor’s degree at UHWO. Coupled with MA’O’s greatly improved retention track record through support for their YLT students, UHWO will benefit from an increase in well-prepared students attending our university. In addition, there has been increasing demand by the growing student body population at UHWO interested in this emerging HAIFS degree program. In the spring 2012 Politics of Food class, out of 10 students, three were interested in enrolling in this degree. In the spring of 2011 Politics of Food class, out of only 8 students in the class, another three were interested in pursuing their education on the topic. Not everyone plans to become an organic farmer of course, but several students have contacted Dr. Mironesco to discuss course related issues, long after the class was over. Please see Appendix A for letters of support from students for this program.

Educational, Applied Research, and/or Related Community Development Needs

The HAIFS concentration serves clear needs as follows: (1) Educational. While the UH system offers considerable and unique choice to students in the fields of tropical agriculture, botany, business, environmental studies and Hawaiian studies there are no programs that have actively been linked to form an agroecological and community food security perspective; (2) Applied Research. The UH system still maintains research stations in conventional tropical agriculture, and has an organic program working out of the Waimanalo research station. However, the only similar degree program is only offered at UH Hilo and it does not include a for-credit agroecology internship. This is a relatively new field of study within the Hawai’i university environment, since it is truly interdisciplinary and experiential in nature, compared to the other agroecology related degree within the UH system, and – given that the State is 90% dependent on imported foods, there is a huge need for applied research; finally (3) Extension. WCRC-MA’O graduated 10 students in spring 2011 with their Associates of Arts degree. This number will continue to increase and the UHWO campus will become an important step in their academic pursuits. The area served by UHWO was identified by the Legislature as the most food insecure region of the State of Hawai’i.

Workforce Needs Assessment

A 2009 study done by researchers at UH Manoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource (CTAHR) found that the second priority for the organic industry in Hawai’i, right after poor water availability was the “lack of skilled, affordable workforce.” The study identified college internships and partnership “programs between colleges and farms, subsidized training to ensure qualified workers; promotion in the community of agriculture as a viable career; federal and state support/grants/policies” to remedy this problem (Radovich, Cox and Hollyer, 2009). Thus not only does the HAIFS concentration have the potential to address this critical need for the state’s organic farming industry, but we also have the ability to do so on an “in-house” basis since UHWO’s new campus will have a 10 acre organic farm
on the campus, dedicated to teaching and learning, as well as the production of organic food for eventual sale on the campus and in the surrounding communities.

There has been a sharp increase in the acreage of organic farming in Hawai‘i. Indeed, between 2005 and 2007, the acreage devoted to organic farming in Hawai‘i rose by 60% (Radovich, Cox, and Hollyer, 2009). While the original number of acres was relatively small, there have been marked increases since 2007 of organic farms, as well as consumer demand for organic products. The Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture published a report in 2011 outlining the importance of agriculture in Hawai‘i to rejuvenate the economy, protect important resources as well as gain greater self-sufficiency in food production (HI DOA, 2011). To do this, the report argues that agricultural must now “work collaboratively to develop working coalitions and alliances with other organizations...” (HI DOA, 2011). The HAIFS degree is UHWO’s opportunity to meet the needs of industry, as well as the state with regard to growing food as well as growing a new crop of young farmers.

**Alignment with System and Campus Mission**

The various expected results of the HAIFS program as they relate to community engagement between UHWO and the larger community follow from each other and then loop back around to create a reciprocal relationship between the farm enterprise activities and the academic endeavor, the programmatic infrastructure and the surrounding community of underserved students, and the institutions larger workforce development mission and its impact upon the community. The latter then serves to inform future development and improvement of the HAIFS program at UHWO.

MA‘O’s social enterprise model creates a scenario where investment in and expansion of the enterprise means deeper investment in community resiliency. Tangible outcomes include: increased college opportunities for Leeward Coast community youth; increased opportunities for these youth to receive meaningful, living-wage jobs, and a general rebranding of the community from a “marginal community” to a hub of indigenous innovation. All of these outcomes serve to enhance equity for under-represented students of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Please see Appendix C for a letter of support for the program from Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Executive Director of MA‘O Farms.

UHWO is in a unique position to be able to facilitate an ‘auwai (roughly translated as a porous water pathway) or pipeline system with the creation of the HAIFS concentration on the new campus. There are only a few certified organic farms on college campuses throughout the country, and the fact that many of our BA degree-seeking students are from the area served by MA’O Farms demonstrates an opportunity and commitment for those most vested to co-produce a living, sustainable and resilient agricultural system. As graduates, our students will return to the community as professionals, civic leaders, farmers and entrepreneurs thus validating our institutional mission to create ‘auwai that feed back into our communities.

Hawai‘i needs the next generation to step into leadership roles, and it is UHWO’s mission to accomplish this for our service area – this will only occur if we provide the tools for empowerment, and at the same time instill students with both kuleana (roughly translated as “a personal responsibility to nurture communal assets”) and respect to voice their ideas/opinions. Sustainability and self-sufficiency start with us. This program aims to be sustainable through its design by enabling students to have ownership in the farm operations, as well as marketing and sales of the farm produce to the university
community. These tasks require them to be connected to the work on the farm as well as their academic studies, providing support for the knowledge base needed to run a sustainable farm enterprise.

**Similar Programs in UH System**

The current programs available to students in the UH system, namely UH Hilo’s Tropical Plant Science and Agroecology Specialty, as well as UH Manoa’s Environmental Studies Interdisciplinary degree are very “science heavy.” While there is certainly a place for that type of scientific rigor in organic farming, the industry has clearly outlined the need for qualified and well-rounded workforce. This degree, with its three-pronged (Social Sciences/Hawaiian Studies, Agriculture/Botany, and Business/Marketing – see below for additional information on the structure of the concentration) approach will deliver the organic farming industry precisely the types of workers that it needs to move forward both in growth of organic acreage as well as in increased sales of organic products.

**Program Matrix**

Once they matriculate as UHWO students, the youth will be required to take their 30 credits of classes offered within three clusters in the HAIFS program: Social Sciences/Hawaiian Studies, Agriculture/Botany, and Business/Marketing along with two core classes designated specifically for the HAIFS program. Students will also be required to complete a 6-credit farm practicum. Resources for one of the core classes have already been allocated, as Dr. Mironesco teaches it regularly. Many, though not all, of the other classes are also taught on a regular basis. UHWO is currently drafting its Academic Development Plan (Spring 2012) and is including a position in its narrative and budget request dedicated to HAIFS. The program matrix can be found below:

**Hawai'i Agroecology & Island Food Systems Concentration**

As students in the Division of Social Sciences, students in the HAIFS program will take the same core courses as other Social Science division students including the following:

- MATH 103: College Algebra
- ENG 200: Composition II
- SSCI 210: Statistical Analysis I
- SSCI 300: Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- SSCI 317: Fieldwork and Qualitative Methods
- SSCI 490: Social Sciences Practicum (*6 credit farm practicum* )

In addition, HAIFS students will be required to take 9 credits in *one* additional Social Science Concentration area of their choice.

**HAIFS courses**

*Core 1: Survey of Hawai'i Agroecology (3 credits) – HAIFS 496 new course*

*Core 2: Political Science 335: Politics of Food, (3 credits) Students will be required to take two courses from each theme area included in the HAIFS concentration below:*

**Theme 1: Hawaiian Studies/Social Science (6 credits)**

- Anthropology 447: Polynesian Cultures
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies 342/ Political Science 342/Anthropology 342: Indigenous Peoples and Modernity
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies 440/Political Science 440: Native Hawaiian Law
Political Science 326: Environmental Politics
Political Science 371: Global Futures
Sociology 423/Anthropology 423: Social and Cultural Change
Sociology 324: Race and Ethnic Relations
ECED 496: Early Childhood Education and Sustainability (Course to be proposed in AY 2012-13)
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies/History 471: Polynesia Before European Contact
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies/History 384: Hawai‘i from European Contact to the Overthrow
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies/Geography 365: Geography of the Pacific
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies 304: Hawaiian-Pacific Traditions
Hawaiian & Pacific Studies/History 488: Twentieth Century Hawai‘i

Theme 2: Agriculture/Botany (6 credits)

- Botany 446: Hawaiian Ethnobotany
- Botany 350: Resource Management and Conservation in Hawai‘i
- Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences 310: Environment and Agriculture
- Tropical Plant and Social Sciences 300: Tropical Production Systems

Theme 3: Business/Marketing (6 credits)

- BUSA 311: Accounting for Entrepreneurs
- BUSA 332: Contemporary Business Issues
- BUSA 304: Consumer Behavior
- BUSA 300: Principles of Marketing

Course sequencing is important and themes two and three build upon the knowledge base acquired in theme one. Scaffolding the curriculum in this way enables students to be grounded in the social justice aspects of food security issues in Hawai‘i through the Social Sciences and Hawaiian Studies theme; then to learn about sustainable tropical agriculture through biology and botany classes; and finally, to learn about business and marketing of their product through the curriculum found in the third study theme.

Bibliography


Description of resources required

Faculty (existing and new FTEs)

Core Course #1 – Survey of Hawai‘i Agroecology will be offered through a semester long series of rotating farmers/speakers scheduled and overseen by a UHWO faculty for the cost of a three credit overload as well as speaker fees for the experts offering their knowledge.

Dr. Mironesco will be tasked to teach Core Course #2: Politics of Food (POLS 335) each spring semester. This course is already being offered so there will not be any additional resources needed to cover the costs of offering this class.

A new FTE will be hired in AY 2013-14 to deliver the science courses needed for the students to be able to matriculate through the program, especially considering the course scaffolding in terms of students’ learning outcomes as they go through the HAIFS program. This FTE will be hired with special funds/tuition revenue and the position will be converted to tenure track by a subsequent legislative request as soon as possible.

One course release for one faculty member significantly involved in overseeing the academic program will be requested at the rate of $5,154. This course release is separate from the FTE mentioned above and will also be paid out of special funds/tuition revenue.

Library resources (including an evaluation of current resources and an estimate of the cost of additional resources required): None

Physical resources (space, equipment, etc.)

UHWO Chancellor Gene Awakuni has already allotted a 10.5 acre plot for the development of an organic farm on the new campus. A USDA grant (ANNH Funding Opportunity ID: USDA-NIFA-AHSI-003631) exists which may underwrite the costs of equipment for the farm, as well as infrastructure costs to develop the land to organic standards. Dr. Mironesco, in collaboration with Kukui and Gary Maunakea-Forth will apply for the next funding round in 2013 in order to fund the additional physical resource costs needed to start and develop the HAIFS concentration to its full potential.

Other resources required (staff, graduate assistantships, etc.): None

Five-Year Business Plan. Provide a five-year projected budget for the program that includes:

Annual costs to implement the program: The annual costs to implement the program will be minimal for the first three years. The core classes needed by the students for the HAIFS concentration are already taught on a regular basis. The ones that are not currently taught at UHWO, namely Core #2 (Survey of Hawai‘i Agroecology) will be taught by a series of rotating experts in the field of agroecology, and overseen by one UHWO faculty for the cost of an overload course or course release ($5,154). The farm practicum will be overseen by incoming UHWO/MA‘O students/interns who already have experience running an organic farm/business.

Projected enrollment and estimated tuition revenue: The projected enrollment in the program is reflected in the table below as well as in section 7 of this ATP document. We anticipate having 9 students in the program the first year, 20 the second year, 25 more the third year and then continuing on the fourth and
fifth years with 30 students each year respectively. This is a total of 114 students who would otherwise not be attending UHWO, again, likely from the undeserved area of West O’ahu and who are likely to be Native Hawaiian students coming through the MA’O Farms educational pipeline through the Leeward Community College Community Food Systems certificate.

Does the current or proposed budget (Department/College/Campus) include funds or a request for funds for the proposed program? Please provide details.

Currently, the proposed Academic Development Plan for 2012-2017 includes an agroecology FTE position for the HAIFS degree in 2014-15. There will be a need to hire an additional non-tenure track FTE in 2013-4 through special funds/tuition revenue in order to teach the courses in the agriculture/science classes theme. With administration and legislative approval, this position will be converted to tenure-track as early as possible.

Given a “flat budget” situation, how will the proposed program be funded?

The HAIFS concentration is in a unique position to be able to benefit from the location of the 10.5 acre organic farm which will bring in revenue starting with Year 2 of the program. Currently, MA’O Farms grows five tons of food per acre in Lualualei Valley on the Leeward coast. That equates to about 10,000 lbs. of food resulting in about $30,000 to $50,000 of revenue. The allocation of farmland on the UHWO campus is ten acres. We anticipate that once the farm is up and running with organic certification in Year 5 of the program, this will equate to approximately $300,000 to $500,000 of revenue generated, which will cover farm costs and support internships for future students in the HAIFS program once the award period ends. Sustainability will not only be a way of growing food, but also of making sure that the program in and of itself is sustainable as well.

Curriculum – Courses Taught at Other UH campuses

At the moment, the only courses taught at other campuses are from the second agriculture/science theme. All of the other courses are taught at UHWO on a regular basis. That said, the FTE requested for the HAIFS concentration will be an expert in the field of tropical agroecology and will be able to teach all of the courses in Theme 2, so that HAIFS students will not have to rely on other campuses to take science-based sustainable agriculture courses.

Multidisciplinary Program

This program is clearly interdisciplinary in nature. We have received letters of support from UHWO faculty whose courses and programs would be affected. Please see Appendix B for those letters of support.
## Mini Cost Revenue Template – UHWO HAIFS Concentration

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</table>

* Three credit overload for faculty overseeing Core #2, or hire of one lecturer for same duties
** Computer equipment for HAIFS concentration
*** Speaker fees will be $100 per class, based on one class per week and two 16 week semesters for the first year of the program. The second and subsequent years, the speaker fee will drop to $1,600 per year because there will be an FTE teaching that course and will only include speakers every other week.
**** These are conservative estimates of farm revenue based on prices MA’O Farms currently obtains for its produce. However, the farm revenue included in this table does NOT include any indirect costs, which are a necessary part of any agricultural venture. The water, electricity, etc, and other costs to run the farm on campus will either be funded by extramural funds (see ANNH grant information included above) or by additional sales of farm products, such as Community Supported Agriculture boxes for the campus and surrounding community, or value added products sold at farmers’ markets.
Appendix A

Letters of Student Support for HAIFS
To whom it may concern;

I am writing in support of the UHWO campus offering a Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food System concentration. As a lifetime resident of Oahu and being raised on the Leeward Coast (Nanakuli), I believe offering this concentration would greatly benefit the community. In the Politics of Food class I took, it gave me a unique insight into how our foods are processed as well as the negative effects that it has on our environment as well as our health. It also showed me that there is an alternative to eating processed foods and at the same time helping our environment and economy.

There are not many jobs nor does it appear there will be any in the future for people who reside on the Leeward Coast. Most of the jobs held by people who reside there require them to travel into town. One field of study that could benefit our residents there is a move toward/back to agriculture and how to make a living from it. This would create jobs and a more sustainable economy/ecology. I also believe a move away from using chemicals in the growing and processing of our food supply is essential to the health of our citizens.

Our reliance on outside sources (e.g. mainland) for the majority of our food supply makes us vulnerable and endangers our ability to survive in the event the supply chain is interrupted, by man created as well as natural disasters (e.g. strikes by airlines and shipping companies, hurricanes, etc.). The increasing cases of obesity and health problems in our children as well as adults point to unhealthy diets/foods. Many caused by the additives and chemicals used in the growing and processing of the foods we eat.

Offering a concentration in Agroecology and Island Food Systems and encouraging our students to become educated and involved in how our foods are grown and processed is a way to change attitudes and get people involved in choosing healthier options. Until I took the Politics of Food class, I was like most people and was unaware and uninformed about how the food got from the farm to my plate/mouth. Or how/why it’s easier and cheaper for me to buy processed fast foods that are “bad” for me, than buying healthier natural, raw foods that are “better” for me. It helped me understand why obesity is epidemic and why we suffer from a slew of health problems that are associated with our diet. It also made me want to learn more about the subject of our food supply. Unfortunately, there is a limited amount of courses offered (UHWO) on this subject and not much about agriculture, sustainable farming or how to have a career in the farming/agriculture business.

With the concerns about our environment and global warming, a move towards using fewer/no chemicals in the growing and processing of our food supply is a plus. Organic farms like MA’O Farms, that don’t use pesticides help our environment by reducing the ground and water pollutants from runoff and offer a healthier alternative. Locally grown produce will also help cut down on green house gasses by reducing the amount of fuel used in the transportation of our food. It will also help diversify our economy and move us away from reliance on tourism as our main source of income (economy).
I also believe that offering a concentration in Agroecology would show that UHWO is committed to improving our communities and the environment and supports diversity and sustainability.

Thank You for this opportunity to express my opinion and views on this subject and I hope that you consider adding on this concentration and broadening the scope of degree options available to students attending UHWO.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Koge
April 4, 2012

University of Hawaii at West Oahu
96-129 Ala Ike Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 2010 graduate from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu in Social Sciences with a concentration in Political Science. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Monique Mironesco as her student while she served as the Assistant Professor for POLS 335 (Politics of Food).

POLS 335 lifted the veil on our national and global food industry, exposing how our food supply is now controlled by governments and a handful of economically powerful corporations that have sadly put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of farmers and ranchers across the world, and the safety of our communities, families, children and environment. Monique has encouraged students to develop critical and integrative thinking skills in understanding this complexity and strive to achieve a new vision through intervention in the local food system through education, involvement, and advocacy.

The world continues to become more closely knit by trade and globalization. We all share the same common ground- Food. The issues about our world food system, the safety of our food, and the political and ecological consequences of our consumption of food should be of interest to any thoughtful person that eats it.

I am in support of the new Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. This concentration will prepare and educate people to analyze the way food has been politicized. This new concentration to the College will serve beneficial in educating students on how to address these complex issues personally and academically on a local and global level.

Please feel free to contact me at brandy@hawaii.edu should you have any further questions of my support for the new Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration at UHWO.

Regards,
Brandy Ader
I support your endeavors in this degree program fully... Here's a letter of support, hope it helps! If you need any more personal info, let me know.

I think that an Agroecology and Island Food Systems degree concentration would be something that UH could offer that would draw students from all over the world. There are not many degree programs even similar to this, and it's a concentration of studying that makes sense. The foodie community has been moving towards looking at where our food comes from for a long time, but to back social changes up with a degree program is an excellent investment in the future of our islands. The more people we have who understand our distinct and fragile agriculture systems in Hawaii, and how to market them, and how they apply to our culture, the better our sustainable future will be. We are after all, an island... and without knowledge to take care of and feed ourselves, we could easily starve in a time of crisis. I myself am a graduate of LCC's Culinary Arts program, and received my Associates degree from them in 2005. I am now completing my Political Science BA degree at UH West Oahu, and am thrilled that there could possibly be a degree that not only covers food, and where it comes from, but the business of it, the history behind it, the laws governing it, and the mechanics of it. I fully support UH having a Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems degree concentration, and would very seriously look into studying more in these fields in the future.

Sara E. Perry
PO Box 1819
Waianae, HI 96792
MakahaRaby@aol.com
(808) 693-8663

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 11:53 AM, Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

I hope your Spring Break is treating you well. I am writing to see if you have any extra time during spring break to write a letter of support (if you are inclined to do so) for the new Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration. I am putting together the paperwork to propose this degree and it would really help if I had documented evidence of student interest. I know that a few of you were interested in talking about it some more, so I just thought I would ask. The deadline is fast approaching (this coming Monday afternoon), so if you can't send it to me before, don't worry about it. I appreciate anything you can send me. It doesn't have to be super long, but perhaps include some information about why you thought the Politics of Food class was beneficial and why you think a degree along the lines of the course content (and more, since the proposal for the concentration includes agriculture, botany, Hawaiian studies and business/marketing classes) would be a positive step for UHWO's concentration offerings.

Best,
monique

Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>  Mon, Apr 2, 2012 at 9:37 AM
To: Sara Perry <scalhoun@hawaii.edu>

Hi Sara,

Thank you so much for your letter of support. I know how busy you are and appreciate the time you took to
Melinda Franklin  
94-1149 Lumiaau St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797  

2 April 2012  

To Whom It May Concern  

Subject: Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems  

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Melinda Franklin, am writing this letter, to support the creation of the Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration at the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus. As a current student of UHWO, I have been fortunate to participate in Monique Mirnesco’s Politics of Food class. This class opened my eyes to the economic and political processes involved in our island home. Politics of Food also provided many ideas for future business endeavors as I and my classmates would toss around ideas regarding what we learned each week.

This is the place and time where the addition of the Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration is needed. I am sure this opportunity would not only spark interest in the local talent that would like to stay in the islands, but also invite talented students from elsewhere.

If UHWO is to be the ‘Best in the West’ it should be bold enough to offer such innovative programs.

Thank you for your time in considering Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems as an addition to UHWO concentrations. If the University’s intention is to truly help the citizens of Hawaii, it must provide education to sustain the population.

Sincerely,
Melinda Franklin  
808-223-4617  
mmfrankl@hawaii.edu
April 1, 2012

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Geena Yarbrough and I am a recent graduate from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. I was very excited when I heard that Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration might be offered at the West Oahu campus. As a local resident, I always found it very important to know and understand how the local food market operates on the island. However, after taking the Politics of Food course at UHWO, I became intrigued about what goes on behind the scenes in Hawaii’s local food market. I wished that there were more courses on local food culture offered on campus. Had this concentration been offered while I was still a student at the campus, I would have switched my concentration to this and taken more relevant courses. I hope this concentration will be added to West Oahu’s degree concentrations because I think it will be beneficial to a lot of other students who, like me, found learning about Hawaii’s local food culture to be a vital part of life.

Geena Yarbrough
To whom it may concern,
I am writing in support of the proposed Hawaii Agroecology and Island Food Systems concentration. If Dr. Mironesco's class on Food Politics is any indication of what this degree program would be like than think it would be an excellent addition to the offerings currently at UHWO. As we all know Hawaii is an island and it is far removed from the mainland; the knowledge that would be obtained in these suggested courses such as botany, business marketing and agriculture is integral to helping the island be sustainable. Anything that will help with keeping the people of Hawaii aware of our food systems is beneficial in my opinion. I see nothing but a positive outcome should this be added to the curriculum.
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Jen Rodriguez

Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>  
To: Jennifer Rodriguez <jar3@hawaii.edu>  
Mon, Apr 2, 2012 at 12:47 PM

Thank you so much Jen. I know how busy you are and appreciate the time you took to write the letter.

Hope the rest of your semester is going well.

best, monique

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Dr. Monique Mironesco, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Political Science
University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu
mironesc@hawaii.edu
Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>  Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 2:25 PM
To: geena@hawaii.edu

But I should mention that the letter comes to me so that I can include it in the application packet. You can just scan it and email it if that's convenient.

Thanks
monique

[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Fowler <jdfowler@hawaii.edu>  Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 3:43 PM
To: Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>

To whom it may concern,

As a graduate of UHWO I have come into contact with many students who have a strong interest in the field of Hawaiian Studies and Agriculture. I personally feel as though if students were given the option to enroll in an Agroecology degree granting program there would be much student interest and participation. I have taken PLOS 330, PLOS 335, PLOS 381 and PLOS 384 with Professor Mironesco and I can say that her involvement with these courses in addition to her knowledge of Politics, Hawaiian Systems, and Local Hawaiian Agriculture/Economies would make her a strong candidate to champion this successful program if it were created.

Sincerely,
Joshua Fowler

[Quoted text hidden]

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Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>  Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 10:54 AM
To: Joshua Fowler <jdfowler@hawaii.edu>

Thank you so much Joshua. I really appreciate it. I will definitely include this with the proposal.

I hope all is well with you.

best, monique

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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PATRICIA KOGE <pat31761@msn.com>  Mon, Apr 2, 2012 at 2:28 AM
To: Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>

Hope this isn’t too late and is in line with what you requested in a supporting letter.

I’ve been on night shift and didn’t have much time to write, but thought it important to try and get something to you before the deadline. I hope others did the same and UHWO adds on this concentration/degree.
Appendix B

Letters of Faculty Support for HAIFS
To: UHWO Curriculum Committee

From: Leilani Basham, Assistant Professor
       Hawaiian-Pacific Studies

Date: April 10, 2012

Re: ATP for Agroecology Concentration

I am writing in support of the ATP for the Agroecology Concentration.

The creation of this degree program will move UHWO forward in its efforts to increase the sustainability practices of Hawai'i and it will contribute to the empowerment of residents of the Leeward coast through an educational program that will focus on the issues, theories, and practices of sustainability. This program will have direct effects on our agricultural practices, Native Hawaiian cultural practices and foundations, as well as the economics, business, and marketing of these forms of knowledge.

My only suggestion to the improvement of the Concentration would be to make the degree truly Inter-Disciplinarian by allowing students to major in any one of the primary disciplines that are included in the degree—Humanities, Public Administration, or Social Sciences—thereby allowing students to focus their studies on the area that most interests them.

Mahalo nui.
4 April 2012

Re: Letter of Support for certificate in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems (HAIFS)

As Assistant Professor of Biology, I am writing this letter in support of the proposed concentration in Hawai‘i Agroecology and Island Food Systems (HAIFS) at the University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu (UHWO) in the Social Sciences Division. HAIFS will provide an important entrance point for students at UHWO who are interested in the current movement within the State of Hawai‘i to implement more food security with increased agriculture within the state. This program will also fulfill a need of the first group of Leeward Community College students who will be graduating with support from MA‘O Farms. The students I have met at MA‘O Farms have indicated an interest in continuing their education at UHWO in food production.

In addition, I believe that students who may not be directly interested in food security or agriculture may be interested in the business and agriculture-related courses offered within this program.

Sincerely,

Evelyn (Fenny) Cox
Assistant Professor of Biology
Math/Sciences
Humanities Division
University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu
454-4812
fcoux@hawaii.edu
Hi Folks,

Unfortunately I have a conflict with the emergency division meeting on Thursday and might not be able to reschedule. Since I think the proposed Agroecology program (HAIFS, Hawaiian Agroecology and Island Food Systems) is one of the most important—if not the most important—of all our recent academic initiatives, I would like to offer, briefly, my reasons. I would also like to say I am happy to do whatever I can and offer whatever resources I have to make it a success.

The program will be linked to Ma‘o organic farm and social enterprise initiative which I have been following since its inception. The founder and current director of Ma‘o, Gary Maunakea Forth was an outstanding student of mine in one of the environmental politics classes I taught at UH Manoa over 20 years ago. I have also collaborated on and off with the older kupuna in Waianae—Eric Enos, Puanani Burgess and Poka Laenui—on related programs for the last 25 years. They have visited my classes (Hawaiian, environmental and indigenous politics and global futures), and I have taken students on fieldtrips to their projects in Waianae. I feel I know the community and the issues quite well.

I see this program as uniquely important to UHWO and the larger community for the following reasons:

- Ø It addresses in a direct and creative way critical global issues of food security, self-sufficiency, sustainability and community building.
- Ø It does so in a profoundly local way. It integrates long neglected indigenous systems of knowledge with cutting edge science while bringing together academia and real-world business and political experience.
- Ø It is resource-based, drawing on existing cultural and community resources of the Waianae coast, which has one of the world’s largest concentrations of native Hawaiians, and joins this with UHWO’s particular strengths and interests.
- Ø It embodies our multidisciplinary and values based approach to education by integrating a number of disciplines: business, sociology, anthropology, Hawaii Pacific studies, ecology, biology, agronomy and political science.
• It brings these disciplines together to serve urgent practical issues of job creation, workforce development and most importantly for a disadvantaged community—self-education and culture building. The overriding imperative is improvement in quality of life.
• It has a dramatic record of success. Over the last 10 years the certified organic farm has grown from 5-24 acres; its interns have increased from 3 to 40. Once running the HAIFS program in its current form will accept 64 undergraduates a year.
• Serves some of the deepest needs (educational, economic, community and spiritual) of one of the most under-served disadvantaged communities on the Island.
• The program is quite extraordinary in building in it its own funding. It is estimated (based on the experience of Ma'op) that the 10 acre teaching farm on UHWO campus will start earning revenue in its second year, and by year 5, with full organic certification, will bring in $300,000-$400,000 a year. This sort of built-in funding is almost unknown in higher education programs.

The program as a whole is an outstanding model of integrative systems thinking: inter-disciplinary with a multi-platform pedagogy and a global-local, service oriented, experience-based curriculum. We are fortunate to have an opportunity to partner with such a creative, well thought out and urgently needed community initiative.

Louis

On Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 4:12 PM, Suzanne Falgout <falgout@hawaii.edu> wrote:
Aloha Everybody,

I hope you you have all enjoyed a great spring break!

We have had an urgent request over the break from Monique to move our SSCI Division meeting up to next week Thursday, April 5, at 10am. I will try to find a room for that meeting, but for now please plan to meet on the old lanai in our campus quad.

The reason for this request is for Monique to present her ATP for a new concentration in Agroecology to be housed in SSCI (please see attached). This must be received by the Curriculum Committee's deadline by 5pm that day.

(Both Monique and I were surprised to learn that this will be the final deadline for Curriculum Committee materials for this academic year. The Honolulu group had also hoped to present an ATP for a Center for Democratic Principles & Social Justice by the end of this semester, but I think we will not be quite ready by next week.)

This proposed new concentration in Agroecology is fully supported by VCAA Mobley, who I am told plans to attend our meeting. You will note that the ATP requests a new FTE, and I am told that VCAA Mobley will explain that this position allocation *will not* come from the 7 positions previously allocated by the ADP Committee to SSCI Division.

This new day/time may be inconvenient for some of you. If so, let me suggest that if you are unable to attend the meeting, then please send me your responses to this ATP to me
via email in advance.

(Please note: Due to the Good Friday holiday on 4/6, we had originally scheduled our meeting for the second Friday of the month, on April 13).

We are nearing the end of the semester, and there are other important issues to address. Two that come to my mind are: 1) Nomination of Outstanding Students in SSCI (both for O'ahu and the neighbor islands), solicitation of their 1-page statements, and with designation of a subcommittee chair; and 2) Nomination of candidates for a new SSCI Chair, beginning Fall 2012.

Please send me additional items for our SSCI Division meeting, asap.

I'm sorry for the short notice of this change of schedule. If this turns out to be an inconvenient change for many of us, then we could possibly consider only the ATP on Thursday, 4/5 and then hold our regular meeting on Friday, 4/13. Just let me know.

Suzanne
Request for a Letter of Support for Agroecology Concentration ATP

11 messages

Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu> Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 10:58 AM
To: Jennifer Leilani Basham <jbasham@hawaii.edu>, Derrek Choy <derrekc@hawaii.edu>, Evelyn Fenny Cox <fccox@hawaii.edu>

Hi Leilani, Derrek, and Fenny,

I am writing to ask you for a letter of support for the Agroecology ATP I will be presenting to both my division and the curriculum committee within the next couple of weeks. Since your respective programs are involved, I was wondering if you would be so kind as to look over the proposal and if you are so inclined, to provide a letter indicating that you support the program. I am attaching the ATP here. Please don’t hesitate to ask me if you have any questions.

Best, monique

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Dr. Monique Mironesco, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Political Science
University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu
mironesc@hawaii.edu

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UHWOFormATP1-AgroecologyConcentration-Mironescofinal.doc
280K

Derrek Choy <derrekc@hawaii.edu> Sun, Apr 1, 2012 at 7:55 AM
To: Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu>

Hi Monique,

It looks good. Please note that there is no accounting for entrepreneurs course at this time. Pertaining to the marketing classes, it looks good. I will be on in Boston attending the Higher Education Business Conference starting this week and will be back next week. Other concentrations (Management, Accounting) are involved in your program and will need approval from them.

We can meet next week to discuss your new program. I think it’s a viable route to take and will support you on it.

Derrek

Derrek Choy, DBA
Associate Professor of Business Administration
Chair, Business Division
University of Hawai‘i-West Oahu
Ph. 808-454-4717
[Quote text hidden]

Monique Mironesco <mironesc@hawaii.edu> Sun, Apr 1, 2012 at 7:57 AM
To: Derrek Choy <derreko@hawaii.edu>
Appendix C

Letters of Community Support for HAIFS
Joe Mobley  
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs  
96-129 Ala Ike  
Pearl City, HI 96782

February 15, 2012

Aloha Joe:

Greetings from Wai‘anae and the Kauhale Education & Entrepreneurship Initiative (Kauhale), a program of the Wai‘anae Community Re-Development Corporation (WCRC), a grassroots, community-based organization whose mission is to develop the Wai‘anae moku (region) through the empowerment of youth leadership. Started in 2001, WCRC was founded to address many of the social, economic and environmental issues that plagued the community over multiple generations leading to a downward spiral in which youth and their families were ultimately not being afforded equal educational and economic opportunity.

Under our flagship initiative, the MA’O Community Food Systems Initiative, the MA’O Youth Leadership Training (YLT) recruits high school graduates to serve a 2.5 year tenure in our programs in which the students directly contribute to their own success by working as co-producers of our organic agriculture social enterprises while attending college full-time. Today, the program is graduating cohorts of students from Leeward Community College with an Associate of Arts degree with many continuing on to 4-year programs at the University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu and Manoa. Our belief is that when culturally relevant and communally focused opportunities are given for youth to grow their capacity, we are able to produce stellar leaders who are rooted in their identity, rooted in their families and homes, and rooted in a community in which they can eventually come back and contribute to its overall well-being.

As fellow supporters and innovators of implementing sustainable community, youth and industry development, we writing to affirm our partnership with the University of West O‘ahu in developing the Hawai‘i Agroecology & Island Food Systems Concentration in Social Sciences. Via our partnership, we aim to collaborate on the following:

- Provide programmatic support especially in the recruitment of youth from the Wai‘anae moku (district) who are specifically interested in agroecology, specifically around the areas of Hawaiian Studies/Social Sciences, Agriculture/Botany, and Business/Entrepreneurship. MA’O currently serves 500+ students yearly, primarily native Hawaiian students, in three school-based entrepreneurship programs at Wai‘anae.
Intermediate School, Wai'anae High School and Leeward Community College. Any additional opportunities for our youth to be mentored and supported in this pathway provides greater capacity building for youth in our ‘auwai to grow their interest and passion in these fields. Specifically, we will be working with UHWO to matriculate youth from their two-year programs into the four-year BA program in development as a part of this project.

➢ Collaborate on building community-based academic and experiential, hands-on learning venues in Hawaiian agroecology to enhance learning opportunities developed by the project. WCRC works with many of Hawai‘i’s premier innovators in the public and private sectors who are willing to help to build collaborative activities that not only develops the project but will also give project participants a real world experience of these content areas and its applicability in the community. Specifically, we will be working with UHWO to furnish our expertise, knowledge and practices in organic and sustainable farming to develop the program practicum and internships applicable in this project.

➢ Support the development of indigenous and culturally aligned venues and enterprises for learning that validate the identity, values and culture of our community, especially our youth of native Hawaiian ancestry. MA‘O educators and directors will be available for consultation and development of appropriate strategies and approaches in meeting (and exceeding) stated project outcomes. Specifically, we will work with UHWO to build out a campus-based organic farm and venue which will serve as the physical hub for the BA program and be a focal point for community engagement around enterprise and industry development.

We look forward to working together with the Dr. Monique Mironesco and the entire UHWO team to successfully develop, implement and evaluate the outcomes of this project because we believe that the project will broaden and deepen our efforts to strengthen our student’s success in the academic fields, contribute to a vibrant and resilient community food systems, as well as build our social, economic and ecological capacity of our unique natural resources in the Wai‘anae moku and Hawai‘i. Grounded in the values of aloha ʻāina and ʻike pono, this endeavor is one that the community can also rally to support because it creates a current in which the benefits are returned into the community.

We are happy to reply to any questions or concerns that pertinent parties may have about this collaboration: please feel free to let us know by emailing, calling or writing to our contact numbers above.

Aloha, sincerely,

[Signature]

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth
Executive Director, WCRC
UHWO ATP Review Sign-Off

VCAA Staff Review

Signature [Signature]

Date [4/12/12]

Completed [ ] Not Completed [ ]

Division Review

Division Chair [Suanne Talgont]

Date [4/13/12]

Recommend [ ] Do Not Recommend [ ] Comments attached (optional)

Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee Chair [A. Beattie]

Date [4/24/12]

Recommend [ ] Do Not Recommend [ ] Comments attached (optional)

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate President [Shawn P. Cox]

Date [5/04/12]

Recommend [ ] Do Not Recommend [ ] Comments attached (optional)

VCAA

Date [5/14/12]

Recommend [ ] Do Not Recommend [ ] Comments attached (optional)

Chancellor

Date [MAY 7, 2012]

Approved [ ] Disapproved [ ] Comments attached (optional)