The Engaged Learning Working Group (ELWG) was convened on September 4, 2012; it has met each month during AY 2012-2013, four times during the fall and five times during the spring, with one more spring meeting scheduled. ELWG has as members people from a range of programs and disciplines identified by the Strategic Planning Committee as representing “best practices” at UHM in areas relevant to the ELWG charge, which is as follows:

**Develop a comprehensive plan for strengthening and assessing different forms of engaged learning that can, and should, take different forms in different disciplines including undergraduate research (paid and unpaid), service learning, internships (paid and unpaid), clinical practica, capstone courses, study abroad, international exchange, etc. This plan should clearly identify and operationalize steps that need to be taken to meet the objective outlined in Initiative 1, and identify a timeline and benchmarks for meeting it prior to the expiration of Achieving Our Destiny: The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.**

The ELWG considered multiple approaches to strengthening and increasing opportunities for engaged learning within the undergraduate student population at UHM and submitted a Preliminary Report in April 2013 that included two recommendations: (1) “that all UHM departments begin adopting capstone requirements within their undergraduate majors” and (2) “that a comprehensive e-portfolio system be developed for UHM student, faculty and staff use and that a joint task group with KCC be developed to further explore the potential for a collaborative e-portfolio system.”

A Final Report, currently in draft form, will most likely include two additional recommendations: (1) that an “Exploratory Student Program [ESP] be housed in the Mānoa Advising Center (MAC), which already provides academic advisement to first-year and second-year undeclared students”; the ESP “will provide peer advising, workshops, and co-curricular opportunities to support first-year exploratory students in their declaration of a major and encourage active student engagement within the UHM community. At Florida State University, adoption of a similar model eventuated in a 70% rate of declaration of major by the end of the freshman year within the first 5 years of implementation” and (2) “that UHM adopt a campus-wide student civic-engagement initiative that will support student leaders and a broad range of student-led activities by creating 1) competitive Chancellor’s Future Leader Awards to support students who have taken on leadership roles in activities of personal and public concern that benefit the campus or community-at-large, and 2) a source of competitive funding for which any individual student or group of students with a project that will make a difference in our communities can apply.”

It should be noted that the ELWG discussed many different approaches and recognized that there is excellent work being done by various programs, departments, and individuals that, in combination, reach a broad range of students and meet a wide range of individual student needs and interests quite well. The ELWG recommendations are intended to 1) prepare all entering UHM students to succeed in whatever engaged learning experiences they elect to participate in during their undergraduate careers, 2) expand the current menu
of engaged learning opportunities in areas that have potential for reaching the most students.

Finally, please note that much of this report (and all of the direct quotations) comes from a draft of the “Engaged Learning Working Group AY 2012-2013 Final Report and Recommendations.” When this draft is finalized, it will be posted on the Strategic Planning Committee’s website: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/vision/implementation.html

Submitted by Todd H. Sammons