

BRIDGE TO HOPE: 10 Years of College Access, 2000-2010



PARTICIPANT & PROGRAM INFORMATION UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FALL 2010

INTRODUCTION:

“The best part of the Bridge to Hope program is the incredible support and network abilities. I cannot put a price tag on how much the moral support has been instrumental in my completion....”
-Former BTH participant

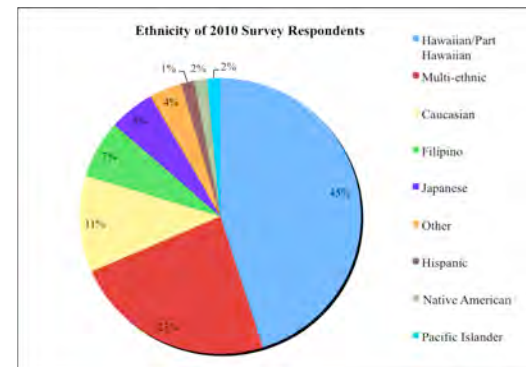
Bridge to Hope (BTH) is a nationally recognized partnership between the University of Hawai‘i and the State Department of Human Services’ (DHS) “First-To-Work” program providing college education for welfare participants as a means of lifelong economic self-sufficiency. Students are full-time enrolled at any of the 10 UH campuses combining coursework and employment to meet a 20-hour per week First-to-Work requirement. The UH Bridge to Hope program provides on-campus student employment as well as other student support services to assist students in achieving their educational goals.

Initiated in Fall 2000 as a “pilot project” Bridge to Hope (BTH) has worked with nearly 500 students between 9/2000 and 9/2010. Respondents to our 2010 survey were evenly divided between currently enrolled students (51%) and those who had graduated (33%) or left school without finishing (16%). While students are eligible to participate for their full five years of First-to-Work eligibility, BTH participants spent an average of 1.8 years utilizing the UH BTH program to achieve their academic degree.

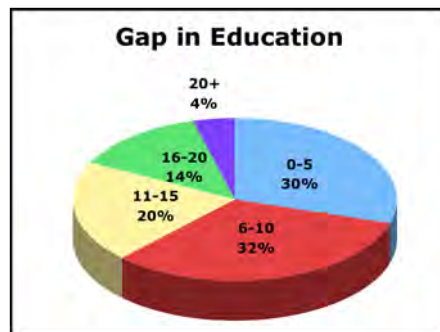
BRIDGE TO HOPE STUDENTS:

A composite of the “average” Bridge to Hope parent would be a 34-year old single mother with 3 children. Children’s ages span from younger than 1 year to over 18 years old, with median age group of 9-12 years old.

BTH participants reflect Hawai‘i’s ethnic diversity. Most BTH students are single mothers (85%) although 2-parent families and single fathers also participate.



RETURNING TO FINISH COLLEGE:



BTH provides women an opportunity to complete a much-needed college degree. 42% of respondents had previously attended college but without completing their degree. The average gap between previous attendance and re-enrollment at UH is about nine years.

BTH EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: FALL 2000-2010

Overwhelmingly, 85% of survey respondents report that their children have been positively impacted by parents' participation in college; including 93% who believe their children will go to college.

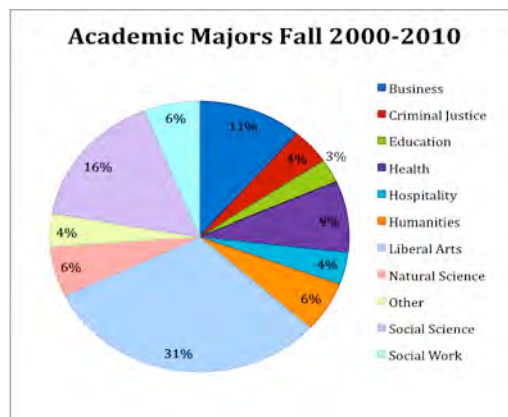
The total BTH participant pool of 494 individuals (with 110 still currently enrolled) has earned a total of 282 degrees. This includes 44 students who earned an AA at the community college, transferred and also earned a BA. Seventy-eight percent (78% n=385) of all BTH students participated at a community college campus.

Degrees Completed as of Fall 2010

AA/AS	155 (44 continued to BA)
BA/BS	109
MA/Professional Degree	18
Total	282
Still Enrolled	110

Academic Majors:

BTH students pursue a range of academic majors, with an emphasis in areas with strong employment opportunities such as health careers, criminal justice and education. Liberal arts and social sciences are also well represented as foundations for a wide range of careers, especially for AA students at the community colleges.

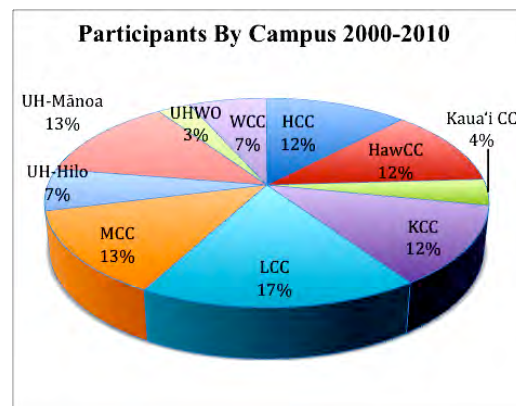


Degree Major	Total
Business	32
Criminal Justice	12
Education	8
Health	24
Hospitality	11
Humanities	17
Liberal Arts	88
Natural Science	17
Social Science	46
Social Work	17
Other	11
Total	282



Campus Distribution:

Campus	Students
Honolulu CC	57
Hawai'i CC	54
Kaua'i CC	21
Kapi'olani CC	57
Leeward CC	81
Maui College	61
UH-Hilo	38
UH-Mānoa	83
UH West O'ahu	12
Windward CC	34
Total	498
Total UH-CC (2 yr)	365
Total UH-BA (4 yr)	133



Note: Campus distribution reflects initial campus at which student engaged with Bridge to Hope. This may differ from degrees granted due to student transfers.

A COLLEGE DEGREE FOR LIFELONG ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY:

Participants' Earnings by Occupation & Education:

Tracking the earnings of people who leave welfare (“leavers”) is not a priority for federal or state agencies and such data is sparse, inconsistent and out-of-date. The most recent national report uses data from 2005 reporting a median hourly wage of \$8.11. As anticipated with additional educational opportunities, Bridge to Hope participants’ earnings and benefits exceed those of welfare “leavers” nationally.

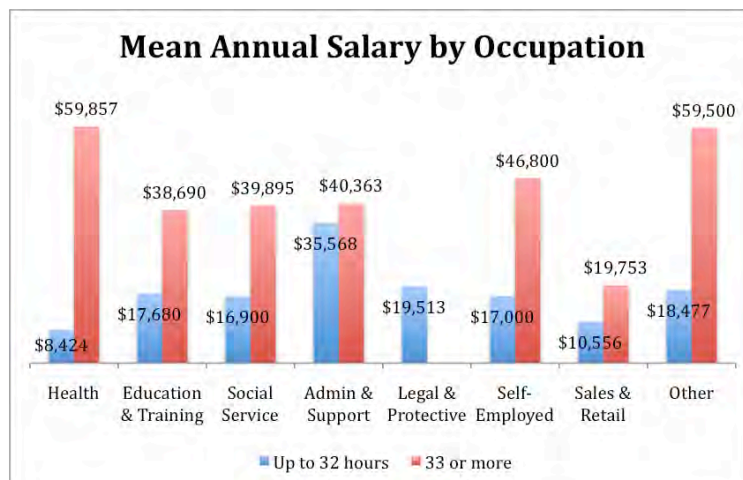
National Comparison of Wages & Benefits¹ of Women Leaving Welfare:

	Wages Hourly	Employer Health Insur.	Paid Vacation / Sick Leave
ACF Annual Report to Congress “Welfare Leavers” (2005 Earnings) (No info available re: education)	\$ 8.11 inflation adj = \$9.05	21.8%	n.a.
Maine Parents As Scholars Graduates (BA) (2006 Earnings) (Supports BA education)	\$14.31 inflation adj = \$15.48	94.7%	90% / 84%
UH Bridge to Hope Participants (Supports AA/BA education) (2010)	\$20.70	73.0%	65% / 73%

Bridge to Hope participants’ earnings and benefits exceed those of welfare “leavers” nationally over 100% with a median hourly wage of \$20.70

Wages for all BTH participants	Salary (annual)	Wages (hourly)
Degree not completed	\$23,291	\$14.79
Completed AA/AS (2yr)	\$33,702	\$18.88
Completed BA/BS (4yr)	\$40,290	\$23.92

Comparatively, Bridge to Hope survey respondents’ earnings are stellar with a median hourly wage of \$20.70 for those no longer enrolled. Full-time employment and occupational variations impact *average* wages and many BTH graduates earn a “self-sufficient” wage and are on their way to economic sustainability for their family.



“They [contributed largely to] completing my degree. I am no longer on TANF and I am able to support myself and my family. We also have medical insurance with my company.”

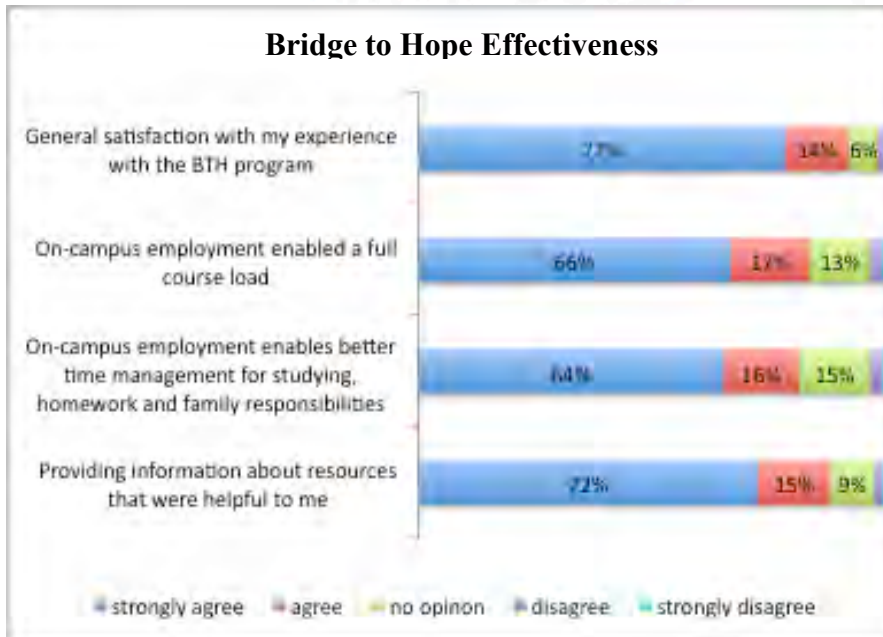
-Former BTH participant

¹ “TANF, Eighth Annual Report to Congress,” Administration for Children and Families, 2009.
 “The Parents As Scholars Program: A Maine Success Story,” Maine Policy Review, 2008.

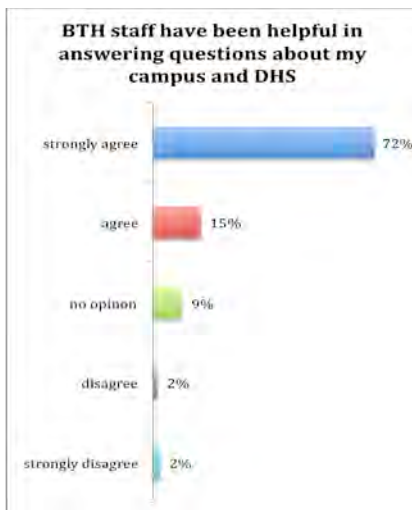
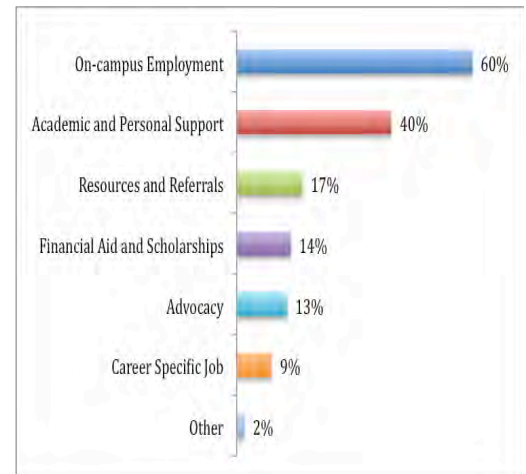


BTH PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS:

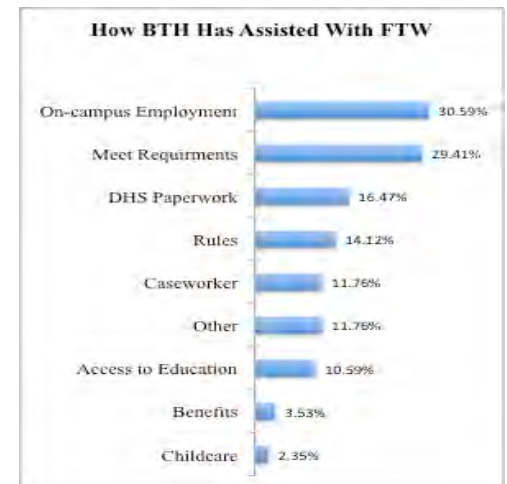
The UH Bridge to Hope program has two important functions: 1) to provide on-campus employment for students to meet First to Work (FTW) work requirements; and 2) to provide referrals and assistance to academic support services at UH. Additionally, assistance with understanding and fulfilling DHS/FTW requirements is an important function.



How BTH assisted with UH



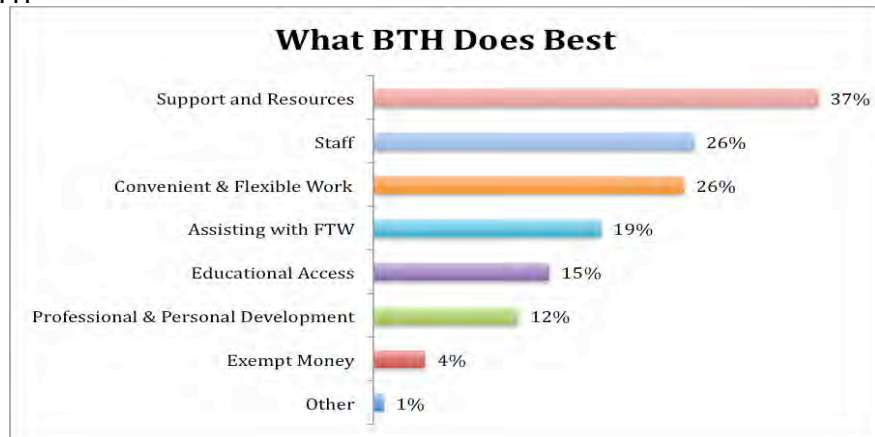
Overall, 90% of respondents indicated they were “generally satisfied with my experiences with the BTH program.” Indeed, 77% indicated they “strongly agreed” with this statement. Respondents indicated that Bridge to Hope met its primary objective, which is to assist students in getting what they needed from UH (88% Yes) and from DHS (55% Yes). Over 81% of respondents indicated that “Bridge to Hope staff have been helpful in answering my questions about my campus and DHS.”



Providing on-campus employment is intended to reduce the time-crunch of family, work and study time. 80% of respondents indicated that on-campus employment provided time-management for study and families, and 83% were able to maintain a full course load because of the convenience of on-campus employment.

WHAT BRIDGE TO HOPE DOES WELL:

Over 82% of respondents identified “the best parts of the BTH Program” with “Support & Resources” (37%) gaining the largest response from students; “Staff” and their on-campus job (26%) were an important second. Reflecting the importance of meeting requirements, 19% identified assistance with FTW as one of the “best” parts of BTH

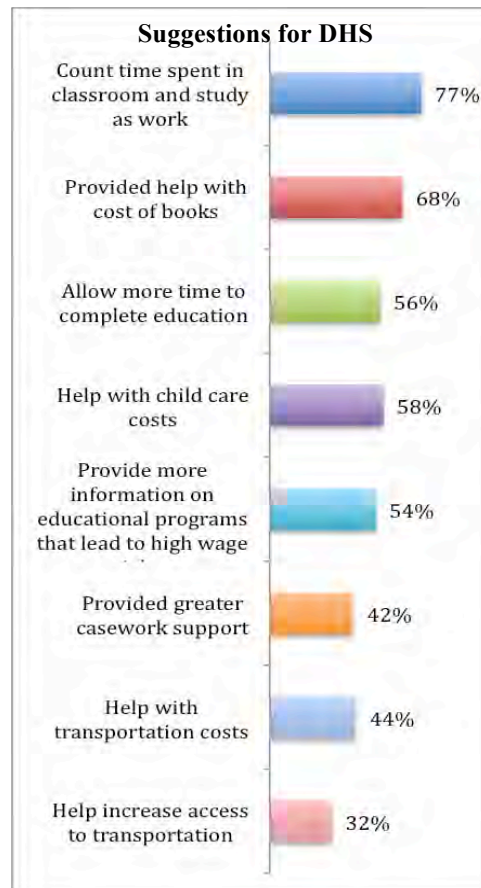


“Without the support from this program, I would have probably been forced to drop out of school.”

As I look back, I know that I would have not been able to reach many of the DHS requirements if Bridge to Hope did not step in and help me figure it all out.”

-Former BTH participant

Respondents had the opportunity to offer suggestions for changes at UH and DHS that would help low-income parents access and complete their education.



“I did not think that anyone would understand, let alone help me succeed, in my goal to finish school. With the support and encouragement of Bridge to Hope, I have succeeded and I am always challenging myself to do more.”

-Former BTH participant



AWARD WINNING & NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED:

Bridge to Hope has received recognition as a successful and innovative program from national organizations advocating for women, low-income families and students.

Bridge to Hope was first recognized nationally as a “Model College Program” by the Howard Samuels State Management and Policy Center at City University of New York (CUNY) in their 2003 publication, “Continuing a Commitment to the Higher Education Option: Model State Legislation, College Programs and Advocacy Organizations that Support Access to Post-Secondary Education for Public Assistance Recipients.”

Bridge to Hope received Honorable Mention for the 2006 “Progress in Equity Award” from the American Association of University Women.

The professional association for student affairs, NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators), recognized Bridge to Hope as the 2007 “Silver Award Winner” for Off-Campus, Commuter and Non-Traditional Programs. Bridge to Hope was also recognized as an outstanding “Innovative Program” by Western Region VI of NASPA in 2006.



University of Hawai‘i Bridge to Hope

UH System

Teresa Bill

UH Mānoa

Christine Quemuel

UH Hilo

Ginger Hamilton

UH West O‘ahu

Joyce Chinen

Hawai‘i CC

Melissa Ishibashi

Honolulu CC

Maggie Templeton

Kapi‘olani CC

Cathy Wehrman

Kaua‘i CC

John Constantino

Leeward CC

Ann Dorado

Maui College

Kulamanu Ishihara

Windward CC

Sarah Hodell

THE 2010 BTH SURVEY:

In Fall 2010, all 494 individuals who had participated in the UH Bridge to Hope program from Fall 2000 - Fall 2010 were invited to participate in an online survey about their experience with UH Bridge to Hope and their post-UH employment (when appropriate). In all, 133 individuals returned a completed survey offering an impressive 27% response rate; or 36% of those successfully contacted. These 133 individuals were evenly divided between former and currently enrolled participants.

In Memoriam:

On this 10th Anniversary Celebration of our successes, we wish to remember and honor both “friends” and students who have passed.

MaryBeth Aldosa

Sidney Kline

Sheryl Lundberg Sprague

Ah Quon McElrath

Nancy Narawa

Nicole Hookano-Elliott

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