

EARLY COLLEGE UPDATE

MARCH 2023

Early College continues to be a successful collaboration between the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) and the University of Hawai'i (UH) System that is focused on strengthening the educational pipeline between secondary and postsecondary education and increasing the college, career, and community readiness of public school students in Hawai'i. Participating students in grades 9-12 enroll in "sheltered" UH classes made up of their high school peers and earn both high school and college credit (dual credit) upon successful course completion, while benefiting from targeted student support services.

TEN YEARS OF SERVING HAWAII STUDENTS

The first Early College classes in Hawai'i were piloted in Summer 2012 with the intent of providing high school students—particularly those from populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education—with greater access to college classes by reducing barriers that were preventing students from participating in dual credit opportunities. The Early College program has substantially expanded since its inception, serving more than 17,000 public high school students statewide. In the 2021-22 school year, 529 Early College classes were offered to more than 3,900 students at 52 public high schools by all 10 UH campuses.

**During SY 2021-22, 52 high schools offered 529 Early College classes.
HIDOE's legislative funding supported Early College classes at 41 high schools.**

Kaua'i (5)
Kanuikapono*, Kapa'a High,
Kaua'i High, Kawaiikini*,
Waimea High



O'ahu (28)
'Aiea High, Campbell High, Castle High, Farrington High,
Hakipu'u Academy*, Halau Ku Mana*, Hawai'i Technology
Academy*, Kahuku High & Intermediate, Kailua High,
Kaimuki High, Kalāheo High, Kalani High, Kamaile Academy*,
Kapolei Charter*, Kapolei High, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O
Ānuenuē, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau*, Leilehua High,
McKinley High, Mililani High, Nānākuli High & Intermediate,
Olomana, Pearl City High, Radford High, Roosevelt High,
Wai'anae High, Waialua High & Intermediate, Waipahu High



Lāna'i (1)
Lāna'i High
& Elementary



Moloka'i (1)
Moloka'i High

Maui (5)
Hāna High & Elementary,
Kihei Charter*,
King Kekaulike High,
Lahainaluna High,
Maui High



Hawai'i Island (12)
Hilo High, Honoka'a High &
Intermediate, Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo*,
Kanu O Ka 'Aina*, Ka'ū High &
Pāhala Elementary, Ke Kula 'O
'Ehunuikaimalino, Kea'au High,
Kealakehe High, Kohala High,
Konawaena High, Pahoā High &
Intermediate, Waiākea High

**Charter schools are not eligible for legislative funding.*



Jade Pham, Early College Alumna and Kawānanakoa Middle School Student Services Coordinator

"I am eternally grateful for how the Early College program allowed thousands of Hawai'i public school students to view college as an authentic and tangible opportunity for the first time. This program is a long-term, evidenced strategy on how we can continue to advance our local communities and 'grow our own.'"

A CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Local and national data have consistently shown that students who participate in dual credit programs like Early College are more likely to enroll in college the first fall after their high school graduation, persist from their first to second year of college, and complete a college degree. This positive correlation is particularly pronounced for students from populations underrepresented in higher education, notably economically disadvantaged, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

**David Lassner, President, University of Hawai'i System**

“Early College provides students with rigorous academic opportunities while they’re still in high school - giving students the confidence and momentum to continue successfully into postsecondary educational pathways to good jobs. With all we learned during the pandemic, we are also able to increase the equity of access to Early College, particularly at small, rural high schools, through more shared online courses.”

After a slight dip in the number of Early College classes offered and the number of students participating during the early terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, Early College course offerings and student participation have stabilized and now exceed prepandemic numbers. The program continues to strengthen its equity-focused approach to increasing student access to college and career pathways in Hawai'i, notably through:

- strengthening advising, recruitment, and college preparation efforts to serve more students from populations underrepresented in higher education;
- increasing online programming and Early College courses shared by multiple high schools, particularly to maximize Early College access for students in rural and remote areas of the state; and
- diversifying Early College course offerings to include general education courses—which are typically highly transferrable and applicable to a variety of degrees—and high-value Career and Technical Education classes.

Funding provided by the Hawai'i State Legislature has been critical in sustaining the Early College program – particularly by enabling students to participate without placing a financial burden on their families. To ensure positive outcomes for the Early College program in the future, it is important to have funding dedicated to advising and counseling resources at both the secondary and post-secondary levels so that students receive more support enrolling in Early College classes, choosing Early College courses that will be maximally beneficial to their college and career goals, and entering into a postsecondary program after their high school graduation.

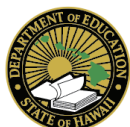
Keith Hayashi, Superintendent, Hawai'i State Department of Education

“Early College provides participants with the opportunities and skills to discover and pursue their passions, creating more clearly defined connections between their aspirations and post-high school endeavors. Early College participation raises student confidence in their abilities, exposes them to new schools of thought, and helps them imagine a brighter future.”



To learn more about Early College in Hawai'i and access additional testimonials and program data, please visit: www.hawaii.edu/dualcredit/early-college/.

Please contact Wendi Vincent (wendi.vincent@k12.hi.us) and Nicole Atwood (nicolesw@hawaii.edu) with any questions.



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SYSTEM