



## EARLY COLLEGE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### Our Collective Vision and Guiding Principles for Early College in Hawai'i

We will ensure that students from underrepresented groups participate in Early College, gain confidence and preparation to pursue their college and career endeavors, and build momentum toward enrollment in postsecondary education or training immediately after their high school graduation. The target population for Hawai'i's Early College program is students from groups underrepresented in higher education, including rural, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, first generation to attend college, and economically disadvantaged students. Early College is a dual credit program that provides the opportunity for students in grades 9-12 to successfully complete UH courses at the 100-level or above ([HRS §302A-401](#), [§304A-803](#)), benefiting from available support services provided collaboratively by the high school and UH campus to foster student success. While earning an associate degree in high school is not an explicit goal, highly motivated and capable students may seize that opportunity, which is inspirational to their peers, teachers, and community.

### Hawai'i's Early College program is intended to:

- increase the college-going rate of Hawai'i public high school graduates;
- increase first-time freshman enrollment at the University of Hawai'i's 10 campuses;
- provide high school students with rigorous credit-bearing college programming that enables them to build momentum toward their college and career goals by earning transferable credit in degree pathways, especially in areas of high need for the state;
- provide complementary academic support through collaboration between the high school and UH campus partner;
- be available at no cost to students and their families;
- offer advanced educational opportunities to expand options available at high schools, especially rural and small schools; and
- afford flexibility in modality and course type based on shared goals between the high school and UH campus partner.

### Metrics

- Increase Early College participation by students who are from the target student population
- Increase first-fall college enrollment of former Early College participants (any college)
- Increase first-fall college enrollment of former Early College participants at a UH campus
- Increase first-fall college enrollment of former Early College participants who are from the target student population
- Increase first- to second-year college persistence for former Early College participants
- Increase degree completion (150% time) for former Early College participants
- Increase the number of Early College CTE pathway courses that are offered in high need career pathways such as education, healthcare, information technology and skilled trades