

The University of Hawai'i System
Mission Statement and Strategic Directions for
International Engagement, 2010-2020

Mission Statement:

A primary purpose of the University of Hawai'i is to serve the people of Hawai'i by preparing its students to be internationally engaged citizens, by enriching the educational experience of students and faculty, and by connecting the citizens of Hawai'i with ideas, talent, and economic opportunity from the vibrant cultures and economies of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Across its ten campuses, the University of Hawai'i is committed to being a preeminent international center of learning, discovery, application, and service in Oceania, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond. It also fosters among students and faculty global perspectives and attitudes, and adaptability to a rapidly changing environment.

Background

“Ma luna a'e o na lahui a pau ke ola o ke kanaka - Above all nations is humanity”

These words, inscribed on the Founders' Gate at our oldest campus, reflect the native Hawaiian spirit of aloha and values that foster openness, respect, and collaboration, as well as the ethnic diversity of the population of Hawai'i and the University community. Hawai'i is perhaps the most isolated land on earth, yet it has long been the crucible of international interaction--from the arrival of the first Polynesian voyagers through subsequent migrations that were part and parcel of the Islands' integration into a global economy. The result is Hawaii's amazingly diverse people who honor their Polynesian roots, recognize the unique responsibilities and challenges of an island society, and still retain a strong cosmopolitan outlook.

These circumstances are the backdrop to the many significant international initiatives that University of Hawai'i students, faculty, researchers, staff, and administrators conduct each year. The University's campuses, schools, and departments have thriving partnerships with sister institutions throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Especially important are our long-standing ties with Japan, Korea and China. The Hawaiian archipelago's unique geography--high volcanic islands

in the middle of the Pacific Ocean--has attracted scholars from around the world and made the University a foremost center for astronomy and oceanography. The University of Hawai'i is also a leader in the revitalization of indigenous languages and culture and preeminent in the study of Hawaiian language and culture. These achievements and partnerships in international education and research complement other University of Hawai'i programs and shall be preserved and encouraged.

Strategic Direction

The ten campuses of the University of Hawai'i System shall embark on a decade-long campaign to make the University of Hawai'i a preeminent center of international learning. Campuses should enhance, intensify, expand and diversify their international activities. Each campus should develop plans for international engagement--plans that are creative and flexible in leveraging comparative advantages, and resourceful in realizing the economies and efficiencies that derive from being part of a single higher educational system.

In developing their plans campuses should share information widely throughout the system and take into account the following guidelines:

- Expand international engagement to Southeast and South Asia and beyond while maintaining our geographic areas of strength.
- Increase international enrollment within nonresident enrollment ceilings.
- Provide University of Hawai'i students and faculty with opportunities for international engagement.
- Play an active role in Asia-Pacific organizations, both public and private.
- Partner with Hawai'i-based institutions and communities with international ties to bring their expertise to the University of Hawai'i and to support shared goals.
- Broaden and strengthen ties, exchanges, and collaboration with other indigenous-serving institutions worldwide.
- Optimize University resources by collaborating in international marketing and recruitment.
- Offer short-term and certificate educational programs geared for international audiences (training, distance learning, technical assistance, and research grants)

through new and existing international partnerships and based on campus strengths.

- Deepen and expand the successful collaboration with the East-West Center.
- Work with the UH Foundation to develop a supportive and active international alumni and donor network to catalyze philanthropic funding and support.

Assessment of International Engagement

The University of Hawai'i System shall create an office to work collaboratively with the campuses to achieve the goals set forth in this mission statement. It shall develop methods of coordinating, facilitating, and periodically assessing international engagement among the campuses to improve resources allocation, to avoid duplication and to encourage innovation and best practices, while affording the campuses autonomy within the framework of the University of Hawaii's international mission.

Each campus shall:

- Create and develop its own mission statement and business model on international engagement.
- Periodically assess and communicate its strategic direction, benchmarks and outcomes, business plan and initiatives.

The System shall:

- Periodically convene representatives from each campus to effectuate collaborative campus strategies, to share best practices, to build on the strengths of each campus and to optimize the University's resources.
- Determine what initiatives (e.g., marketing, public relations), if any, should be adopted at the system level and communicate periodically with the campuses regarding these initiatives.