



February 28, 2022

The Association for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Windward Community College STARS 2.2 Inaugural Report Submission

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Windward Community College, we are pleased to submit documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), version 2.2. This documentation reflects the most accurate sustainability tracking data to our knowledge at the time of submission.

Established in 1972, Windward Community College is a small school within the University of Hawai'i system on the Windward side of O'ahu with a little over 2,000 students enrolled per semester. The Campus offers 4 Associate Degrees in Hawaiian Studies, Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, and Veterinary Technology. It also offers 18 certificates with some of these related to sustainability including Ahupua'a systems: indigenous resource management and food production, Hawaiian Studies, Marine Option Program, Sustainability, and Sustainable Agriculture. We are committed to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion by providing affordable, quality higher education to the people of Hawai'i.

While this is our first STARS report, we have a longstanding commitment to sustainability that reflects our status as a native Hawaiian place of learning. One of our five core values is the Hawaiian proverb, "*He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauā ke kanaka,*" which translates as land is the chief, man is the servant. This value reframes our role as environmental stewardship to being dependents on the planet for the food, water, and air we need to grow and develop. As such, sustainability is deeply ingrained in our core.

We have a long history of research, education, and practice of sustainable principles through our various sustainability initiatives. Our Sustainability Curriculum Committee meets monthly to approve Sustainability (S) designated courses designed to teach students about sustainability across a variety of academic disciplines. This initiative is part of a growing system wide effort to teach students ecological literacy. We have currently approved 71 Sustainability designated courses across all five academic departments to encourage students to learn about the social,

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cultural, economic, political, scientific, and artistic approaches to sustainability, recognizing the valuable contributions from each academic discipline to thinking about the health of the planet and local communities.

We offer numerous opportunities for students to engage in unique sustainability initiatives including our numerous campus gardens which allow students to participate in sustainable water management, traditional natural medicine, Native Hawaiian plant studies, sustainable agriculture, and Native Hawaiian food crop production. We have been actively working to plant native Hawaiian and Polynesian heritage plants on campus to teach about Hawaiian ecosystems and resource management through the campus environment. We have also been working to reduce energy consumption on campus through an ongoing energy management contract with Johnson Controls Inc. We also take pride in our Hōkūlani Imaginarium's immersive 360° star and space simulator, Uala Leaf Cafe zero waste operations, and campus solar panel initiatives. Windward Community College works to collaboratively teach and model sustainability to our faculty, staff, students and the community.

Mahalo,



Ardis Eschenberg
Chancellor, Windward Community College