



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
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February 26, 2022

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

Re: Hawai'i Community College STARS 2.2 Inaugural Report Submission

Aloha,

On behalf of Hawai'i 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.

From its start in 1941 as the Hawai'i Vocational School, the college has provided access to higher education opportunities, trained a skilled workforce and supported the economic development of the County of Hawai'i. In 1970, the institution joined the University of Hawai'i System as a comprehensive community college with the name Hawai'i Community College. Today Hawai'i Community College comprises three campuses serving different geographic areas of the large Island of Hawai'i: Manono in Hilo, Pāalamanui in Kona, and the Kō Education Center in Hāmākua. Hawai'i Community College offers 26 associate degree and certificate programs that prepare students to succeed in the workforce right after graduation or continue their studies at a four-year college or university.

While this inaugural report represents the first time we have made a submission of this nature, we have a longstanding commitment to sustainability that reflects both our status as a center for educational and vocational training, as well as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning, whose contributions are widely-recognized in the Hawaiian Islands and beyond. Our institution values environmental stewardship grounded in indigenous knowledge with the goal of advancing sustainable practices that are deeply rooted in Hawai'i for the benefit of generations yet to come. Hawai'i Community College graduates are equipped to apply knowledge and skills to make contributions to community that are respectful of the indigenous people and culture of Hawai'i island, as well

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as other cultures of the world and contribute to sustainable environmental practices for personal and community well-being. Furthermore, we are committed to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion by providing affordable, quality higher education to the people of Hawai'i.

In 2021, Hawai'i Community College launched the Sustainability Academic Subject Certificate. This Certificate is interdisciplinary and integrates sustainability themes and practices across the Hawai'i Community College curriculum, drawing from Hawaiian Studies, Natural Science, Social Science and other disciplines. To date, twelve of our courses have been Sustainability-designated and can be applied towards the Certificate. Additionally, at the system-wide level, we continue to promote sustainability efforts in operations and facilities through our Office of Sustainability, which is tasked with streamlining efforts across operations, education, research, campus & community engagement and cultural connections. Our system-wide Sustainability Curriculum Coordination Council (SSCCC) brings together faculty representatives from each campus to help clarify content, learning outcomes, assessment, and articulation strategies for existing and new sustainability certificates, courses, programs and co-curricular activities. Through these and other system-wide efforts, Hawai'i Community College is enriched by a broader conversation about how best to practice established tenets of sustainability.

We are pleased to submit our report for your review and we look forward to building on past efforts to continue improving our sustainability programs in the years to come.

Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachel Solemsaas'.

Rachel Solemsaas, Ed.D
Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College