



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**HONOLULU**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 23, 2023

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

Re: Honolulu Community College STARS 2.2 Inaugural Report Submission

Dear AASHE,

On behalf of Honolulu Community College (Hon CC), 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.

Hon CC was established in 1920 as a Territorial Trade School. In 1964, the College became part of the University of Hawai'i system and has been granting Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees since 1966. As an integral part of the University of Hawai'i Community College system, the College offers transfer programs as well as degree and certificate programs in over 20 programs and disciplines.

In 2021, Hon CC launched the Sustainability Academic Subject Certificate. This Certificate is interdisciplinary and integrates sustainability themes and practices across the College curriculum, drawing from Hawaiian Studies, Natural Science, Social Science and other disciplines. To date, 56 of our courses have been Sustainability-designated, 29 of which are Sustainability-focused 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, Hon CC is enriched by a broader conversation about how best to practice established tenets of sustainability.

While this inaugural report represents the first time we have made a submission of this nature, Hon CC has a longstanding commitment to sustainability as well fostering place-based and cultural-based education as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning. The College's commitment to

sustainability and integrating indigenous knowledge is evident in its long-standing institutional support for initiatives of the Sustainability Committee and Sustainability Coordinators as well as sustaining numerous Native Hawaiian programs on campus. The [current mission statement](#) of Honolulu Community College includes “sustainability” as one of its core values, written as: “**Sustainability** – creating a culture of social responsibility around the conservation of resources and creating a foundation for environmental stewardship.” Moreover, in the [Honolulu Community College 2016 Educational and Strategic Plan](#), “sustainability” is highlighted as one of five core goals.

The Hawaiian tenant of *aloha ‘āina*, simplified as “love of land”, underlies the campus commitment to curriculum and practices fostering the vital relationship with the natural environment. The College is also demonstrably committed to promoting equity and diversity both by providing affordable, quality higher education to the people of Hawai‘i, and by promoting a campus culture founded on respect and inclusion.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen C. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being the most prominent.

Karen C. Lee  
Chancellor