



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

February 24, 2022

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

RE: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa STARS 2.2 Inaugural Report Submission

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, we are pleased to submit documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), version 2.2.

Established in 1907, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) is the largest and oldest university in the ten campus University of Hawai'i (UH) System. UH Mānoa offers hundreds of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees; and a strong, vital research program. As a Carnegie R1 university of international standing, we have widely recognized strengths in multiple areas critical to the understanding of sustainability and resilience, including oceanography, tropical agriculture, tropical medicine, astronomy, electrical engineering, volcanology, evolutionary biology, comparative philosophy, comparative religion, Hawaiian studies, Pacific Islands studies, Asian studies, and Pacific and Asian regional public health. We are one of only a handful of universities nationwide to hold the distinction of being a land-, sea-, sun- and space-grant institution.

While this inaugural report represents the first time we have made a submission of this nature, we have a longstanding commitment to sustainability that is reflected in the diversity of our curricular offerings, our status as a world-class research institute with strengths in a range of sustainability and resilience areas, our responsibility to and partnerships with our neighbors in the Pacific, and our status as an indigenous-serving institution striving to become a Native Hawaiian place of learning. 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 future generations. We are committed to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion by providing affordable, quality higher education to the people of Hawai'i. More information about our values and priorities may be found in our strategic plan, [Mānoa 2025](https://manoa.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/) (<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/>).

In 2018 we established the Institute for Sustainability and Resilience (ISR) to provide a campus-wide focus for and coordination of instructional, research and outreach programs relating to sustainability and resilience. ISR fosters multidisciplinary curricular programs that empower students to meet the critical challenges of bridging local to global, and problems to solutions. UH Mānoa offers more than 125 sustainability-focused courses across 32 departments that are cross-listed into the Sustainability course designation. Through the work of an interdisciplinary curriculum committee, faculty established sustainability and resilience learning outcomes for these courses to facilitate regular assessment of student learning. Our approach provides opportunities for students to meet general education requirements while exploring sustainability-related topics through multiple disciplinary lenses. The efforts of ISR earned a commendation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), who noted the importance of our innovative approach to sustainability education, research, and extension.

UH Mānoa offers the BA in Sustainability (through ISR), the BS in Global Environmental Science, BS in Natural Resources & Environmental Management, the Marine Option Program, and certificates in Sustainability (through ISR), Renewable Energy and Island Sustainability, Sustainable Tourism, Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance, and Sustainability Education. An increasing number of degree programs offer sustainability-related concentrations and tracks as well.

We also promote sustainability in operations and facilities in partnership with the UH System Office of Sustainability, which provides coordination and leadership in establishing goals and monitoring progress on energy efficiency, net zero initiatives, and the generation of renewable energy. Organizationally housed within the Office of the Vice President for Administration, the Office of Sustainability is positioned to monitor and track progress on our sustainable design goal that new buildings strive to meet the requirements for LEED Silver Certification, an aspiration aligned with statewide priorities that have placed Hawai'i among the top 10 states with LEED certified buildings (2017 - 2019), per the US Green Building Council. There are 28 LEED-certified buildings in the UH System, including 11 at UH Mānoa, of which 9 are included in this submission (1 platinum, 6 gold, and 5 silver certifications).

Thank you for the opportunity to present our report for your review and consideration. We look forward to using this process to assess and build on our successes in sustainability and resilience in the years to come.

Sincerely,

David Lassner
President

Michael Bruno
Provost