
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Rebuilding the Construction Workforce in Hawaii: Preparing Youth for High-Demand Careers



Grant Amount: \$1,400,000

Grantee: Honolulu Community College (HCC)

Key Partners: Kauai Community College, Hawaii Department of Education, Eight local high schools, Hawaii Carpenters Union Local No. 745, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Local Union No. 293, Oahu Workforce Investment Board

Leveraged Amount: \$701,036 in cash and in-kind contributions from HCC, Hawaii Department of Education, and employers

Location of Grant Activities: Honolulu, HI

Challenge:

Total employment in the construction industry will increase by nearly one million jobs by 2012. However, the industry has difficulty recruiting youth, while many youth in construction lack the skills employers need.

Addressing the Challenge:

HCC and its partners will create a Construction Academy that provides high school students with an array of construction-specific courses and career opportunities in the construction industry. HCC and its partners will develop a standards-based curriculum that fits in with construction certificate and degree programs at Hawaii's community colleges. As juniors, students will receive an overview of construction careers and begin developing construction specific-skills. Then, during their senior year, students will focus on acquiring the skills needed in specific trades and occupations. Through a speaker's bureau, employers will visit schools and provide students with information on careers in the industry. An internship program also will help students gain hands-on experience.

Projected Outcomes:

- Five hundred students will take courses in the Construction Academy.
- Three hundred students will enroll in construction apprenticeship programs, construction associate degree programs, or construction baccalaureate programs.
- A standards-based curriculum will be created to mesh with construction certificate and degree programs at community colleges.
- A technical assistance guide for developing a career academy will be created that will assist other areas interested in launching their own academies.

