

Community-Based Job Training Grants

University of Hawaii

Grantee: University of Hawaii

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Oahu Workforce Investment Board; Hawaii Health Care System Corporation; Hawaii Medical Center; Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center; Waimanalo Health Center; Volunteer Resources Center of Hawaii; Micronesian Community Network; State Veterans Services; Hawaii State Department of Public Health; Hawaii State Department of Public Health; University of Hawaii; Palolo Learning Center of the Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii; and Catholic Charities.

Grant Amount: \$1,485,540

Leveraged Amount: \$2,700,493

Location of Grant Activities: Hawaii

Challenge: Hawaii, like many warm weather states, has a growing population of older Americans. This demographic shift has put an increasing burden on the healthcare industry. A general shortage of skilled workers has limited the pipeline of individuals entering this career track. In fact, many potential trainees are unable to meet entry requirements for training programs. Geographic barriers further complicate granting access to individuals interested in pursuing healthcare training.

Addressing the Challenge: The Ulu Pono Project will train workers using a variety of e-learning technologies and will include practicum, internship, 144 hours of classroom instruction, and a U.S. Department of Labor Certified Apprenticeship of 2,000 hours. Distance and e-learning components will be employed to overcome geographic barriers and to leverage resources in order to reach the greatest number of participants. Ulu Pono will also create an interactive Web site for students to receive training. Investments will be made in interactive video classrooms and corresponding curricula will be designed to address the varied needs and diverse learning styles for lower level trainees. This program includes a remedial education component to identify and address those participants needing additional preparation.

Projected Outcomes:

- 409 participants will enroll in education and training activities.
- 355 participants will complete and receive a certification or license.
- 368 participants will enter employment or enroll in further education.
- 75 percent of participants will realize increased earnings of 25%.

