

University of Hawai'i Center at West Hawai'i Update

Launch of Fall Semester

WH students returned to a number of Kealahou Campus enhancements over last semester. A new water fountain was finally made available in May last year, which enhances the Campus Piko area. In addition, the landlord has also painted the Southern buildings (which contain Student Services, HITS classrooms and Culinary Kitchen and Admin) resulting in improved appearance. The AV team has worked on finally bringing classroom presentation equipment in Classrooms A1 and A2, thereby improving that learning environment for our teachers and students.

Enrollments

West Hawai'i bounced back somewhat from facing weak HawCC enrollment numbers in the final two weeks before the first day of instruction. In concert with Hilo Student Services Staff, WH Student Services conducted an outreach campaign to students, and was assisted by a number of West Hawai'i Faculty. The breakout number of present West Hawai'i enrolments (by CRN or zipcode) is not available at this time. However, one measure of the turnaround can be found in the orientation numbers. By the final orientation session, where we normally have a cap of 25, the last two orientations cohorts ballooned to 30+ and finally 60+ students. A fortunate timing was that the largest orientation coincided with our all College meeting on August 21st. Having all of our Faculty on campus at the same time as so many commencing students at their orientation allowed for student advising to happen in a timely way. Both WH Student Services and Faculty advisors should be commended for their total effort in responding to the enrollment situation.

Hawai'i Community College- Palamanui/UH Center at West Hawai'i

In concert with the Hawai'i Community College assessment process, West Hawai'i Staff, Faculty and Lecturers will be using the September 19th E Imi Pono day to consolidate as a group in preparation for their work in the future, to maintain quality provision of educational services at Kealahou, while at the same time preparing for the transition to the new Campus at Palamanui in 2015. In addition to a Kipaepae, we will also have a workshop session to get everyone's input to consider a new Mission Statement for the future.

Campus visits are currently being organised through the UH Center Director, and plans are being made to allow key stakeholders to experience the substantial campus layout in coordination with the UH System and Construction Site Management, at times which will not interfere with construction progress or cost.

Staffing

At present three positions are being filled: An appointment has been made for a new **Clerical Assistant** in the Admin section. Recruiting has commenced for an **Educational Specialist** position which is focused on working with the Director and Student Services to recruit and transfer students into bachelors programs offered through the Center by the UH System. Finally, a committee has been convened to review applicants for a temporary **Campus Security Officer** position.