



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

Wendy F. Hensel
President

DEPT. COMM. NO. 192

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the University of Hawai'i is transmitting a copy of the Report on Establishment of K-12 Expanded Teaching Cohort Programs in Each County (Act 141, Session Laws Hawai'i 2022) as requested by the Legislature.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at: https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2026/act141-slh2022_2026_expanded-teaching-cohort_report_508.pdf.

Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kim at (808) 956-4250, or via e-mail at scskim@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Hensel'.

Wendy F. Hensel
President

Enclosure

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2026 LEGISLATURE

Report on Establishment of K-12 Expanded Teaching
Cohort Programs in Each County

Act 141, SLH 2022

December 2025

**ACT 141, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2022 (SB2359 SD1 HD1)
Relating to the University of Hawai‘i**

Overview

Pursuant to Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2022, and on behalf of the University of Hawai‘i System, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) College of Education (COE) is submitting the final year annual report to the legislature regarding the establishment of K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. This report shows statewide Bachelor of Education (BEEd), Post-baccalaureate (Post- bac), Professional Certificate in Teaching (PCERT) initial teaching licensure programs available and current enrollments from UH Mānoa, University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu (UHWO) and University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UH-H). Both the Post-bac and PCERT programs are considered undergraduate programs. In addition, graduate initial teaching licensure candidates are also listed.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, College of Education

For the 2024-25 academic year, there are a total of 207 UH Mānoa teacher candidates enrolled in **statewide teacher licensure programs**^a. For 2024-2025, UH Mānoa statewide programs included: BEEd in Elementary Education, BEEd in Special Education (SPED) (Severe/Autism, Mild/Moderate- Secondary, Reading Intervention), BEEd in Elementary Education (Blended [Early Childhood & Early Childhood SPED]), BEEd in Elementary Education, Dual Licensure in Hawaiian Language Immersion and Elementary Education. Professional Certificate in Elementary Education, Special Education (Severe/Autism, Mild/Moderate), Secondary Education in English, General Science, Art, Social Studies, Math, English as a Second Language, and World Languages. The MEDT program highlights only those who are currently enrolled in a teacher licensure program. The BEEd Dual Elementary Education and Hawaiian Language Immersion program began fall 2021. Enrollment data show a total of three candidates (O‘ahu). The BEEd in Elementary Education concentration in Early Childhood Care and Education, Birth-Age 8 was approved in 2024 and enrolled the first group of students in Fall 2025 (Maui, Moloka‘i, and O‘ahu).

The BEEd in Special Education was recently approved by the UH Board of Regents in early spring 2022. The current enrollment for ALL Post-Baccalaureate in Special Education program, which is offered statewide, is 77. O‘ahu teacher candidates are also enrolled in our statewide programs and therefore counted here. In order to increase the number of potential substitute teachers in the state of Hawai‘i, the School of Teacher Education (STE) provided online substitute teacher courses. The STE continues to collaborate with Maui College through the Hoapili Project to provide courses for students interested in becoming elementary teachers. At this time the College of Education is providing pre-requisite courses students need to enter the program. The goal is to support a Maui based cohort of elementary teacher candidates in the

future. In addition, the College of Education offered pre-requisite courses as part of the Cross Campus Course Sharing (C3S) program to build easier pathways from the Community College programs to UH Mānoa. As a means of supporting those teacher candidates seeking licensure in Hawaiian Language Immersion, the STE started to develop and offer Kaiapuni methods courses (taught in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i) at the elementary level in mathematics and performing arts. The STE will partner with the Hoapili Project to develop and offer Kaiapuni methods courses in science and social studies in the coming year. These courses will be offered to Kaiapuni teachers as a professional development offering as well. In addition, the STE piloted a hybrid undergraduate ethnomathematics (Aloha ‘Āina Mathematics) course in Spring 2025, that focused on place-based mathematics content knowledge for pre- and in-service teachers across Hawai‘i. The STE also partnered with Good Jobs Hawaii to support student teachers through tuition remission. Starting Fall 2025, students statewide enrolled in Secondary Social Studies, have the option of pursuing their degree from their home island via online options. Finally, STE is working with faculty to develop pathways in both CTE and STEM that can be accessed statewide. **Table 1** offers UHM COE statewide only enrollment data for teacher candidates.

^a **Note.** *UH Mānoa’s on-campus teacher licensure candidates are not included in this report.*

Table 1

Fall 2024/Spring 2025 semesters Statewide Licensure Students Enrolled by Degree, Institution and Island for Bachelor of Education (BEd), Professional Certificate in Teaching (PCERT), and Master of Education in Teaching (MEdT) for UHM, College of Education

Table 1. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Fall 24/Spring 25 Statewide Licensure Student Enrollment by Degree, Institution, and Island

Fall 2024/Spring 2025 Statewide Licensure Students Enrolled by Degree, Island	Hawai‘i	Kaua‘i	Lāna‘i	Maui	Moloka‘i	O‘ahu	Grand Total
Bachelor of Education (BEd)							
Elementary Education	2	5		9	1	10	27
SPED: Severe/Autism	8	2	0	6	1	7	24
SPED: Mild/Moderate		1					1
Early Childhood Care & Education, Birth – Age 8				1	1	6	8
Dual Licensure: Early Childhood Ed. & Early Childhood SPED	1	2		5	1	5	14
Dual Licensure: Hawaiian Language Immersion & Elem. Ed.						3	3
Professional Certificate (PCERT)							
Elementary Education	8	5		7	1	26	47
SPED: Severe/Autism	2	2		4	1	9	18
SPED: Mild/Moderate	12	4		2	3	28	49
Secondary Education							
English						3	3
Science	2					2	4
Art	1			2		9	12
Social Studies	3	1		2		7	13
Mathematics						4	4
English as Second Language		1				1	2
Hawaiian						2	2
Japanese		1	1			2	4
Theater or Dance						1	1
Master of Education in Teaching (MEdT)							
Elementary Education * ¹		1		1	1	4	7
Secondary Education							
Art		1				2	3
English* ²	2			1	1	3	7
Science * ³					1	5	6
Social Studies * ⁴		1				8	9
Mathematics	1					1	2
Japanese						1	1
Hawaiian Language* ⁵				1		2	3
Grand Total	42	27	1	41	12	151	274

¹ Including 1 Hawaiian Language Immersion candidates (O‘ahu)

² Including 1 dual SPED M/M (O‘ahu)

³ Including 1 dual SPED M/M (O‘ahu)

⁴ Including 1 Hawaiian Language Immersion candidate (O‘ahu)

⁵ All are Hawaiian Language Immersion candidates (O‘ahu)

University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu

In academic year 2024-25, 163 UHWO degree-seeking teacher candidates are progressing through their teacher preparation programs (Table 2). UHWO offers the Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree with concentrations in Early Childhood Education (currently non-licensure); Elementary Education (K-6); Middle-level (grades 6-8) English, Math, General Science, and Social Studies; Secondary (grades 6-12) English, Math, Science, Biology, General Science and Social Studies. Also available are Special Education (SPED) Add-A-Field pathways for both Preservice Teacher Candidates and Inservice Teachers, as follows: 1) Degree seeking undergraduates may earn dual licensure in General Education and Special Education for grades K-6, 6-8, or 6-12; 2) Non-degree seeking Inservice Teachers may add the Special Education teaching license to their current Hawai‘i teaching license. In Spring 2025, 28 Elementary and 11 Secondary teacher candidates are anticipated to graduate and be recommended for their General Education licensure to the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. Additionally, 11 Inservice Teachers will be recommended for their Special Education teaching license (Table 2).

Table 2: University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu Teacher Candidate Enrollment Data

Teacher Candidate Enrollment	Hawai‘i	Kaua‘i	Lāna‘i	Moloka‘i	Maui	O‘ahu	Total
General Education Licensure Pathway							
Bachelor of Education (BEd)							
Early Childhood Education	1					1	2
Elementary Education, K-6						112	112
Middle-Level (6-8) & Secondary (6-12)							
English	1	1				15	17
Mathematics						8	8
General Science						5	5
Biology						1	1
Social Studies						16	16
Undeclared						2	2
Sub Total	2	1				160	163
Special Education (SPED) Add-A-Field Licensure Pathways							
Preservice Teacher Candidates: SPED + General Education Initial Dual Licensure program in progress							
Elementary (K-6):						9	9
Secondary Mathematics (6-12)						1	1
Secondary Social Studies (6-12)						1	1
Total						11	11
Inservice Teachers: SPED Add-A-Field/Advanced program completion in progress							
Elementary (K-6)		1				5	6
Middle-Level English (6-8)						1	1
Secondary English (6-12)						2	2
Secondary Social Studies (6-12)						2	2
Sub Total		1				10	11
Early Childhood Education Non-Licensure Pathway (Effective Fall 2024)							
Distance Education ECED * ¹	3	1			3	7	14

*¹ Distance Education ECED Teacher Candidates have the option to add a Pre-K or Pre-K-3 teaching license to their non-licensure program. Fall ‘24

UHWO is actively involved in the creation of Distance Education (DE) Teacher Preparation programs designed to address the neighbor island teacher shortage. *Ho‘opuliko Kumu Hou, Title III* project is UHWO’s *Grow Our Own* middle level and secondary education pathway. This pathway is Hawaiian culture-based and categorized in the UH system as a hybrid DE program for students in rural areas of O‘ahu and Kaua‘i. Hybrid DE university courses are delivered online, with practicums and student teaching completed in person at various community schools, grades 6-12. In this way, teacher candidates can earn their degree and teaching license without leaving their island homes. Currently the English Language Arts licensure area is available to DE candidates; however, in partnership with another Title III grant from Kaua‘i CC, *Keleka ‘a Ho‘ona ‘auao*, UHWO is working to create additional pathways for

middle/secondary candidates seeking licensure in social studies, math, biology, and science. The Social Studies pathway is now under review, with possible implementation in the near future.

UHWO is also partnered with Hawai'i P-20 and Leeward Community College (LCC) in a *Stay at Home, Grow Your Own Teacher Pathway Pilot*, designed to address the high teacher turnover in neighbor island schools, especially in the most under-resourced schools. This pilot program supports students as they pursue licensure to become highly-qualified educators in the State of Hawai'i. The first cohort of Kaua'i and Hawai'i island students are in their junior year of high school and began Early College General Education courses in Spring 2025, working towards their Associate of Science in Teaching (AST) Degree from LCC. In Fall 2027 the students will transfer to UHWO to begin their final two years of their BEd leading to licensure in their chosen middle-level or secondary field of study.

In efforts to support the growing need for licensed Early Childhood Education (ECED) teachers, the UHWO Education Division successfully hired one tenure-track faculty, effective Fall 2024, to take leadership in the development of ECED Licensure pathways. Our ECED licensure proposal is currently under review by the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. The BEd with Concentration in ECED will provide pre-K and Pre-K-3 add-a-field initial and advanced licensure programs for preservice teacher candidates and Inservice teachers, respectively. The new licensure pathway will also be available to candidates currently in our Distance Education, ECED non-licensure program, which is articulated with Honolulu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island Community Colleges (Table 2).

UHWO offers pathways to both an Initial (Preservice) and an Advanced (Inservice) Special Education (SPED) add-a-field teaching license. Additional instructional support is needed, to sustain the program, while recruiting and retaining SPED teachers. The Education Division will seek to hire one additional, tenure-track SPED faculty. Currently this 30-credit program is supported in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education, which provides \$125K annually towards tuition stipends for eligible candidates. In Spring 2025, 11 candidates earned their SPED license (Table 2).

UHWO actively engages in partnerships with James Campbell High School and Leilehua High School Teacher Academies. Additional instructional resources are needed to support the growing number of Online Early College courses in pre-professional teacher education that are offered each semester to students in grades 9-12.

To support the need for licensed teachers of English Language Learners, including Native Hawaiian immersion teachers, UHWO plans to seek legislative funding to ultimately hire faculty, to provide leadership in the development of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) add-a-field Initial and Advanced licensure pathways, Pre-K-12.

University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, School of Education

In response to Act 141, which calls for the establishment of K -12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, the UH Hilo School of Education added a new Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (BAES) program which includes a track focusing specifically on elementary teacher education. This new undergraduate program was approved by the UH Board of Regents on February 16, 2024. On January 17, 2025 it was also granted approval by the Hawai‘i Teachers Standards Board (HTSB) as a State Approved Teacher Education Program (SATEP). The licensure track of the BAES program began accepting students in the Fall 2025 semester and currently has 37 students enrolled as majors.

The UH Hilo School of Education also continues to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, which has initial teacher licensure cohorts at both the elementary and secondary levels. In the 2025-2026 academic year, there are a total of 14 graduate students enrolled in this program, including 8 elementary candidates and 6 secondary candidates.

Table 3: University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Teacher Candidate Enrollment Data

Grade Level/Subject	Hawai‘i	Kaua‘i	Lāna‘i	Moloka‘i	Maui	O‘ahu	Total
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (BAES) Licensure Track							
Elementary Education	37						37
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)							
Elementary Education	8						8
Secondary Education							
Mathematics	1						1
Social Studies	3						3
Physical Education	1						1
English	1						1
Total Enrollment							51