



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®  
**MAUI COLLEGE**

Lui K. Hokoana, Chancellor  
 University of Hawaii Maui College  
 310 West Ka'ahumanu Avenue  
 Kahului, HI 96732

Aloha Mai Kakou,

It is my honor to provide information to this honorable body regarding the STEM education pipeline here on Maui. My name is Lui Hokoana and I am the Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i Maui College. I would like to begin my remarks by providing you a quick overview of Maui College. The college is part of the 10 Campus University of Hawai'i System. In 2006 the college changed its name from Maui Community College to Maui College as it offered its first baccalaureate degree. Today the college offers 21 Associate degrees and 3 Baccalaureate degrees. The college is comprised of the main campus in Kahului with approximately 3,400 students, the Molokai Education center with 200 students, the Lanai and Hana education centers with 30 students each and the Lahaina Education center with about 75 students. STEM degrees provided at the college include an Associate Degree in Natural Science, Baccalaureate degrees in Sustainable Science Management and Engineering Technology, and two certificates in Cyber Security. Last year the college had approximately 160 students enrolled in STEM degree programs. This number does not include Liberal Arts majors who may have been taking prerequisites to transfer to another college to finish a STEM degree.

Let me now talk about some of our STEM programs at the college. The Center for Cyber Security Education and Research (CCER) was established at the University of Hawai'i Maui College in 2012, to provide the local community and students with cyber security education, training, and guidance. The mission of CCER is to provide cyber security guidance, training and workforce development activities to the local community, K-12 students and teachers, as well as students enrolled at UHMC. The program is supported by grants from the NSF and the Department of Labor. The program is completely online and attracts students from all islands in the state. The courses are taught with online hands-on labs and the curriculum is mapped and approved by the National Security Agency. Ten students have completed the Cyber Security certificate and an additional 5 students are in the pipeline to complete within the year. (I understand that you will have an opportunity to meet one of our faculty members and a couple of students involved in this program.) In Hawai'i most of the Cyber Security jobs are found on O'ahu with the NSA, DHS, FBI, and with banks and health organizations. I believe there is huge job growth potential in this field.

Ka Hikina O Ka Lā is a specialized program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College funded by the National Science Foundation in response to the application to erect the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) upon the summit of Haleakala. The sacred and legendary mountaintop provides extensive educational opportunities through collaborations between the Native Hawaiian community, University of



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310 W. Ka'ahumanu Avenue  
 Kahului, HI 96732-1617  
 Telephone: 808 984-3655  
 Fax: 808 984-3546  
 Website: www.maui.hawaii.edu

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Hawai'i Maui College, and the National Science Foundation. This approach provides a learning environment that integrates Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge and practices into modern scientific technology and instruction. Ka Hikina O Ka Lā is committed to increasing the participation of Native Hawaiians in higher education and guiding them to leadership roles in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The program provides college scholarships for STEM majors, early admit opportunities for high school students interested in STEM, three summer bridge programs that offers students the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as learn about the cultural practices and historical significance of Hawai'i, in a fun and engaging environment. Students are exposed to a variety of disciplines that include Agriculture, Physics, Science Lab Technology, Electrical Engineering, and Hawaiian Studies. During the summer courses, students participate in field trips, in-class activities, and lectures designed to stimulate their interest in STEM careers and Hawaiian culture. While we only have preliminary data, the data shows that over the last four years we have seen an increase in the amount of minority students pursuing STEM degrees at Maui College. We encourage the NSF to continue to fund programs like Ka Hikina O Ka La to increase minority participation in STEM fields.

I would like to end my presentation by telling you about a recent trip to Okinawa. I was there to establish faculty/student exchange programs with Okinawan higher education institutions. One of the schools I visited was OIST – the Okinawan Institute of Science and Technology. The Japanese government founded it four years ago with the goal of being the best research institution in the world. It only provides doctorate degree programs and only 20 of the 100 students are Japanese. The language of instruction is English. They have world-class faculty, and have built a top-notch research facility. The Japanese government understands the importance of STEM education and is trying to attract the best researchers and students to give them an innovation edge to compete in a global economy. The United States has been able to lead this global economy because we have the best research higher education institutions that employ world-class faculty and attract the best students from all over the world. Interestingly, when I was at OIST, I was approached by two of their faculty members who were interested in conducting research on Maui. The biologist told me that he was interested in coming to Maui to conduct research in the West Maui watershed, one of the most bio diverse environments in the world and the second faculty was interested in learning if we were doing any work on Haleakala, the best place in the world to study the sun. I had known about the fact that Maui provides this great opportunity to learn but I was amazed to learn that other people of the world also knew this. The point is that we have the opportunity to groom our Maui students to become leading scientists in the world, but we must first light that fire in them to pursue a career in STEM. Programs on this panel are doing just that. I urge you to continue supporting these programs.

And lastly, I want to grow local scientists who appreciate the cultural and social importance of Maui's natural environment. In my opinion these scientists will not only produce excellent research but also use it to protect this precious Maui environment.

Mahalo, for allowing me to provide information about STEM education here on Maui and thank you for continuing to support STEM education in Maui County through federal grants.