Early Childhood Education Program Expands to Two Local High Schools
Effort Aligns With State and National Push on Pre-K, Childcare

By Chancellor Rachel Solomon
As of August 22, Hawai‘i Community College welcomed students back to campus for the Fall 2022 semester. Even though we face a surge of COVID-19 cases in our community, it’s still an exciting time of the year as students, faculty, and staff come together to work with dreams and aspirations of learning, growing and building a brighter future through higher education.

Kamehameha Schools, Friends of the Future, and the Hawai‘i Department of Health recently proposed spending roughly $450 million to increase the early childhood education workforce, and that’s what this initiative is all about.

“We are pleased to launch this program to help increase the early childhood workforce for a much-needed, essential service,” said Brenda Watanaabe, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education. “Research shows how important early learning is for the success of our kids,” said Brenda Watanaabe, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education. “We are pleased to launch this program to help increase the early childhood workforce for a much-needed, essential service.”

The classes will be free and the program includes a paid internship for eligible seniors.

About the Early Childhood Education Program
- Founded in 1982
- Offers an Associate of Science degree, a Certificate of Achievement, and two Certificates of Competence.
- Associate Degree graduates can seamlessly transfer to the Bachelor of Arts in Social Science (with a concentration in Early Childhood Education) program offered through the University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu via distance education. There are also articulation agreements with Chaminade University and UH Manoa.
- An on-campus, nationally accredited lab site at the Hawai‘i Community College – Kona campus is run by School of Continuing Education & Workforce Development. The classes will be free and the program includes a paid internship for eligible seniors.

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