

Hawaii Community College -Palamanui Update

Heading into midpoint of Fall Semester, Palamanui Campus Phase 1 is definitely 'open' if not 'finished.' The majority of our West Hawai'i students and teachers are relishing the new surroundings, and many report that the learning environment itself is a significant motivator for engaged learning.

Our Culinary and Science programs have not yet been able to join in to the same degree as kitchen and lab facilities were unavailable owing to mounting building delays. Their classes were forced to return to Kealahou for the Fall Semester. Kitchen readiness suffered from design oversights in the refrigeration, now rectified, with the likelihood the Main Instructional Kitchen and the Bakery Kitchen will be operational at Semester's end. Palamanui Labs have been delayed by some design oversights, as well as the need to re-specify much of the scientific equipment, which had become unavailable in the interim between initial plans and construction. There have also been delays in the manufacturing and installation of the lab furniture. A date for the labs being operational for instruction is likely to be in mid Spring semester. We are currently looking at solutions for Spring Semester science lab scheduling. Another major part of the project which is still under construction is the parking lot shade structures. They are on track to be completed and the parking lot re-opened at the end of this month.

Enrollment numbers were released last week. They show that enrollments are slightly up on our levels from last year. This result is encouraging, as we still feel that the new Campus is yet to have its full impact, given we have been forced by the incompleteness to proceed with a 'soft' opening. We plan to have our 'Official Public Opening' in February, to coincide with Hawai'i Community College Day.

