



Hawaii EPSCoR: Catalyst for Enculturation of STEM Disciplines

Maurice Kaya, CTO, Hawaii DBEDT
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“Success in the global, information-based economy...means producing a constantly rising standard of living for all Hawaii’s people, while using fewer natural resources - including land...and preserving those aspects of life that make our island home so special.

...we need to ensure that our workforce has the skills and knowledge required to compete effectively in the 21st century.

...we must create an environment in which innovation, entrepreneurship, and risk-taking are encouraged, nurtured, and rewarded.

...we need to enable all our citizens...regardless of their economic circumstances...to be fully involved in the digital revolution that is sweeping the world.”

Governor Linda Lingle, State of the State Address, January 22, 2007



- In support of the Hawaii EPSCoR IMUA II Program sponsored by the National Science Foundation, **DBEDT is providing supplemental funding to help formulate and implement innovative human resources development programs** to expand and diversify Hawaii's technologically-skilled workforce.
- These efforts are being **facilitated through a coordinated effort** involving the University of Hawaii and Community College System, the State Dept. of Education, the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), the State Legislature, and Hawaii's local business community.



Primary EPSCoR HRD Goals:

- **Enhance ties and forge partnerships between the University of Hawaii and our local business communities that can seed collaborative research and development programs while enhancing technology transfer and commercialization**
- **Expand and diversify workforce development activities statewide, with an emphasis on education and training programs for K-12 and college students, as well as incumbent workers, in technical skills that are currently or projected to be in high demand within Hawaii's business and research communities**



Examples of State-Funded HRD programs:

- ***University-Industry Forums***
- ***Technology Innovation Workshops***
- ***Career Pathing Activities***
- ***Student Internship/Certification Programs***
- ***Research Experience for Teachers***



Hawaii Innovation Initiative Programs:

- 1. STEM academies for middle and high schools***
- 2. Specialized training for STEM educators***
- 3. Expanded internship and mentoring programs***
- 4. Embedded culture on innovation in partnership with businesses***
- 5. Regulatory and tax environment that rewards productivity***
- 6. Establishing more science and engineering endowed chairs in Hawaii universities***



Hawaii Innovation Initiative Programs:

- 7. Programs to encourage life-long learning and skill building***
- 8. Building an environment that encourages and rewards risk-taking and “standing out”***
- 9. Ensuring that state government “leads by example” in adopting innovative practices***
- 10. Forging global links to solidify Hawaii’s leadership role in the Asia Pacific arena***



Mahalo and Aloha!...