

## A rapid response employment training program in response to the coronavirus pandemic impact.

Thousands of O'ahu residents suffered disruption by COVID-19 impacts such as reduced hours, furloughs or job losses.

In an effort to assist those affected, the University of Hawai'i created a rapid response employment training program that ran from October to December 2020.

The initiative targeted job training or skills training for employment that was available or projected to be available shortly. Classes prepared participants for jobs such as pharmacy technicians, network analysts, security guards, forklift operators and office administrative support.

The University of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu partnered on the O'ahu Back to Work initiative. The initiative offered training at no cost to the participants. Instructors at seven University of Hawai'i Community College campuses and the Mānoa Outreach College provided the training online options or a combination of online and in person instruction with physically distanced interactions.

O'ahu Back to Work also included technology support of laptop and mobile hotspot loaners to connect with online classes, a virtual job fair opportunity, and resume and interview preparation.

Participants included more than 1,600 O'ahu residents whose employment was disrupted due to COVID impacts. Participants registered for 2,250 trainings.



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
SYSTEM



The numbers:

MORE THAN **70** COURSES

**2,250** REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

INSTRUCTION OCCURRED AT THE FOLLOWING CAMPUSES:

CAMPUS	PARTICIPANTS
Hawai'i Community College	<b>263</b>
Honolulu Community College	<b>122</b>
Kapi'olani Community College	<b>456</b>
Kaua'i Community College	<b>284</b>
Leeward Community College	<b>432</b>
UH Mānoa Outreach College	<b>371</b>
UH Maui College	<b>194</b>
Windward Community College	<b>313</b>

**13%** BECAME EMPLOYED and **70%** are seeking employment

OVER **\$2.15M**

in tuition costs ... covered by federal CARES Act funds.

"My current part time employer is giving me more hours as a result of the (O'ahu Back to Work) course."

- Participant Survey Response

"This is an extremely like awesome opportunity. Just honestly, it couldn't have come at a best time at the moment it felt like especially a lot of us are out of work and not receiving much income."

Alejandra Borunda, O'ahu Back to Work pharmacy technician student

"If there's no income then you have to get some kind of education. You just can't sit there."

Brian Lee, O'ahu Back to Work computer student

For more information email [oahuwork@hawaii.edu](mailto:oahuwork@hawaii.edu) or call (808) 956-8960.