

# **Spotlight on Service Learning:**

## **Engaging Students, Engaging Faculty, Engaging Communities**

*HUD Office of University Partnerships, April 22*  
*Communities and Universities: Making a Difference in Challenging Times*  
*“It Takes a Village: Service-Learning/Civic Engagement”*

**The Service-Learning Program at  
Kapi’olani Community College  
University of Hawaii**

***Robert Franco***  
***bfranco@hawaii.edu***



***Kapi’olani: Island Roots, Global Reach, Inclusive  
Excellence***

## A High Impact Strategy

***“Service-Learning*** is a teaching and learning method that integrates critical reflection and meaningful service in the community with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility.”

# Why Service Learning?



Drives shared and transformational experiences for:

- ☐ Students, faculty, and institutions to build stronger communities
- ☐ Students and faculty in academic, professional, and leadership development
- ☐ Faculty and community partners taking responsibility for students learning civic responsibility.

# Kapiolani Service Learning



- Requires reciprocal community partnerships based on best practice principles:
  - clear lines of communication
  - clear roles and responsibilities
  - campus-community needs assessment **and** assets mapping
  - tactical and strategic planning toward mutually beneficial goals, evaluation, and continuous improvement
  - measurably reduce the severity of **problems** in our community

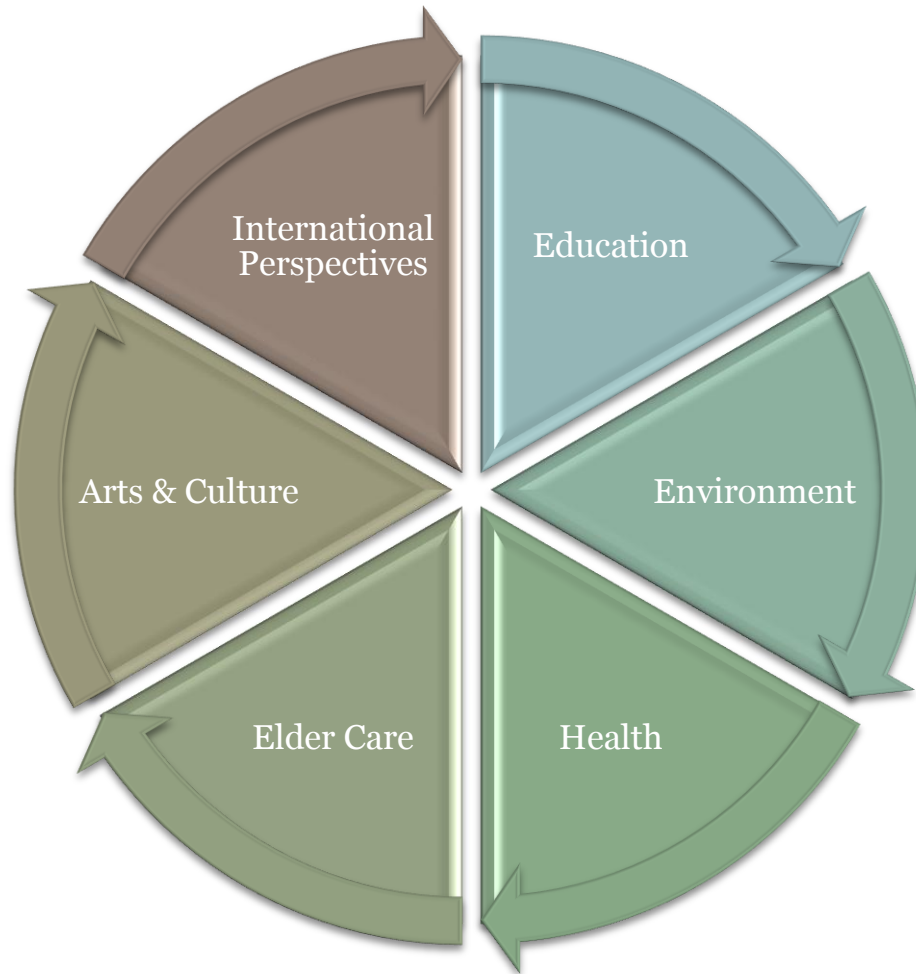
Too  
Low

- College preparedness
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade literacy
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade math-science skills
- Digital access
- Financial aid awareness
- Calculus readiness
- Blood bank supply

Too  
High

- Teen pregnancy
- High school drop out
- Infectious disease risk
- Elder isolation
- Invasive species take over

# 6 Service Learning Pathways





***Meet our members: Nicole Medieros, Kathryn Roberts, Michi Atkinson, Allan Kaleikilo, and Shannon Phenix with Melisa Orozco, Service Learning Coordinator.***







*Kapiolani World AIDS Day 2009*



# Does it Work? Campus Perspective



- Data collected in 1996, 1997, 2006
- Service Learner Re-enrollment – 10% higher
- Service Learner GPAs – higher before service-learning, even higher after (sustained academic performance)
- Service Learners compared with non-service learners (control group): Statistically significant improvement in Service Learners' attitudes about:
  - Working as a team,
  - Ability to make a difference in the community,
  - Instructors as caring individuals (intermediate variable for improved retention and academic performance)



# Does it Work: Fall 2009 Snapshot



- 336 service-learning completers
- 302 re-enrolled in spring 2010 (90%) compared to 81% re-enrollment institution-wide.
- 90 new fall 2009 students who completed service-learning re-enrolled in spring 2010 (100%). GPAs of 3.03 compared to institutional GPA of 2.54.
- 25 service-learning completers in developmental math and English courses, course success rates 30% higher in math and 10% higher in English.
- 32 Native Hawaiian service-learning completers.

# Does it Work? Campus Perspective



Service Learning interlocks with:

- general education learning outcomes
- 21<sup>st</sup> century career preparation

## INNOVATIONS IN

- indigenous, intercultural, and international learning
- science, technology, engineering, math
- student, faculty, community engagement
- partnerships to solve real world problems

# Does it Work? Community Perspective



Based on 4,741 supervisor evaluations:

4=Excellent - 3=Good - 2=Fair - 1=Needs Improvement

- Student Reliability 3.73
- Sensitivity to Clients 3.79
- Willingness to Learn 3.81
- Communication Skills 3.75
- Overall 3.78

# Links to Campus Strategic Plan, 2008-15



- **Outcome A** Leading Native Hawaiian Serving Institution
  - A.4 Increase Native Hawaiian degree completion by 6% per year.
  - Focus on place-based learning, continuity in place and relationships
- **Outcome D** Prepare students for effective engagement and leadership in a global environment.
  - D.7 Increase the number of students annually completing course-embedded Service-Learning assignments from 600 to 1,000.
  - Collegewide Strategy 4: Strengthen outreach and comprehensive program delivery to underserved communities, Palolo Valley.
  - Supports other performance measures related to STEM, Preparation for Nursing, Health Science, Teaching Careers, General Education Learning Outcomes Assessment.



# ***Malama i na Ahupua'a***

## ***KCC Environmental Pathway Program***



***Ahupua'a -- Land division stretching from the mountain to the sea***







*Waihe'e*







*Waikalua*







*Waipao*







***Waipao***







***Education Pathway Leader Michi Atkinson with Palolo Elementary mentees***





***AmeriCorps VISTA and Palolo resident, Stephen Maybir, shares his thoughts on the significance of the Learning Center and its role in the lives of his friends, family and neighbors.***







***Palolo Learning Center Director Dahlia Asuega***  
*was interviewed by local news stations about this milestone achievement.*







# Palolo Partnership with Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii, Inc.



Phase 1 (2002 – 2003) MHAH opens its new office at Palolo Homes after privatization of the State of Hawaii's largest public housing project. Renovations are completed for 306 units in 63 buildings.



Phase 2 (2007 – 2009) Palolo Homes Learning Center is constructed with grant monies from the City & County of Honolulu and Housing and Urban Development. Oceanic Time Warner Cable provides free, high speed, wireless internet access. \*15 resident attend KCC.



Phase 3 (2010 - 2015) Currently developing a new Memorandum of Agreement between Kapiolani CC and MHAH, based on the KCC Strategic Plan.



***Professor Judith Kirkpatrick of Kapi'olani Community College***  
*is a major contributor to the College's development and community presence  
at Palolo Learning Center.*





***James Clifford, President of Clifford Projects Inc, explains the 5-year evolution of the Palolo Learning Center, completed in December 2008, with HUD Office of University Partnership fund, and in partnership with Kapiolani CC and Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii, Inc, who purchased the property from the State of Hawaii in 2002.***







***Oceanic Time Warner Cable President, Nate Smith:*** "What I'm hoping to do is use the power of our distribution and penetration to get the kids in the community involved in making it a better community themselves. It's about accountability." The partnership with Oceanic Time Warner Cable bridges the gap between education and entertainment. Palolo residents can now watch and learn their ABCs on TV.







***Vice Chancellor Mona Lee*** receives a tour from student guides of the Palolo Learning Center regularly televised ABCs program.





*\*Maria Franco\**  
Bob Franco's daughter

*There is **ample space** in the Learning Center for discussion, tutoring, focus groups, yoga, dancing, playing, parties and films.*







***Palolo Learning Center*** touches the lives of the youth in the community and bridges the gap between generations through various activities.





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***Service Learning Leadership 2010***





# Service Learning is like a hybrid car ...



NPO  
partners

KCC

Service  
Learning

Social entrepreneurs





# Does it Work? Community Perspective



## **Service Learning Effectiveness: based on nearly 4,750 supervisor evaluations**

