

**New Business Item 21-10**  
Introduced September 17, 2021  
Approved September 17, 2021

**TITLE: Consideration of Leeward Community College Letter of Intent  
to Plan a SPED PK-3 Initial Licensure Program**

---

---

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board accepts the Letter of Intent from Leeward Community College's (LCC) Special Education Program to plan a new track for initial licensure in Special Education grades PK-3.

LCC's plan is to offer an initial licensure program in the following field:

- Special Education (PK-3)

LCC's Letter of Intent and Narrative are attached.

The HTSB Executive Director or designee will work with the program to complete a review. A report for the review must be submitted within two (2) years of acceptance of the Letter of Intent and the review must be conducted within three (3) months of submission of the report to HTSB staff.

The program may not advertise this program as a Hawaii licensure program until such time that Provisional Approval is granted by the HTSB.

**Submitted by:** Branden Kawazoe

**Referred to:** Teacher Education Committee



HAWAI'I TEACHER  
STANDARDS BOARD

## Letter of Intent to Develop Hawaii State Approved Education Preparation Provider

### 1. CONTACT AND CONTEXT INFORMATION

EPP name and address

Name	Leeward Community College/Advanced Professional Certificate in SPED
Address	96-045 Ala 'Ike Pearl City, HI 96782
URL	<a href="https://teach.leeward.hawaii.edu/sped-licensure-apc.html">https://teach.leeward.hawaii.edu/sped-licensure-apc.html</a>

EPP administrator

Name	Christina Keaulana
Title	Special Education Coordinator
Email address	ctk8@hawaii.edu
Telephone number	808-455-0480
National Accreditation Body and Dates of Accreditation (If Applicable)	Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) April 30, 2021-June 30, 2028

SATEP Administrator, if different from EPP Administrator

Name	
Title	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Name of new program or field(s) to be included

Name of Program	License Field(s)	License Level(s)	Projected Implementation Date
Advanced Professional Certificate in SPED	SPED	PK-3	1/1/2022

Ex. Master's of Education                      STEM                      6-12, 6-8                      7/1/2018


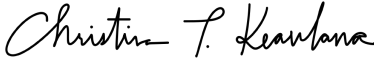
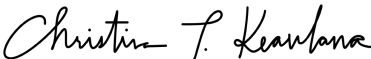
## 2. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND JUSTIFICATION

If this is a new program, attach an organizational chart of your institution/agency and, if applicable, college/school/department showing the placement of this program.

Justification for implementing the program. Summarize the current market for this program's completer employment outlook and any other contexts that shape the program.

See attached Justification Narrative.

## 3. SIGNATURES

Administrators	Enter Title and Typed Name	Signature	Date
EPP Head	Jeff Judd, TEP Coordinator		5/25/21
Program Head	Christina Keaulana, SPED Coordinator		5/25/21
Program Contact	Christina Keaulana, SPED Coordinator		5/25/21

According to a U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Report, there are 2,555 children in Hawaii between the ages of 3-5 receiving special education services, with the highest percentage (67%) qualifying under the disability category of Developmental Delay. At the request of the Office of Early Learning, effective December 2018, the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board requires completion of a full preparation program to add the field of Early Childhood Education (ECE) PK-3 and PK-K. This statute has increased the need for preparation program options leading to ECE teacher licensure since there is no longer an option to add the ECE field through a content knowledge test or coursework combined with experience. Furthermore, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) launched Hawaii's first [publicly funded pre-kindergarten program](#) in the 2014-15 school year. There are now 34 pre-kindergarten classrooms on HIDOE elementary school campuses and 13 pre-kindergarten classrooms on public charter school campuses statewide. The development and expansion of Hawaii's public early learning system will create an imminent need for highly qualified Early Childhood Educators, particularly in the state's highest need area of special education.

As of May 2021, there are 109 active students enrolled in the Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) in SPED K-12 and 22 new applicants for Fall 2021. There are 76 active students enrolled in the 3+1 LEE-Chaminade Bachelor's of Science in SPED Mild/Moderate PK-12. Both pathways require the same five core 300-level SPED courses.

Approximately 20% of APC in SPED Candidates (22) expressed interest in a SPED PK-3 license. Since its inception, the APC in SPED was approved as a SATEP to add SPED PK-3 as a field to an existing license and the courses in this certificate serve as 70% of the SPED course requirements for the 3+1 BS in SPED, another approved SPED PK-3 SATEP. Therefore, the APC in SPED courses have always included content that requires students to:

1. Apply knowledge of learner development, learner differences, diverse students and the learning environment to optimize learning for PK-3 students receiving SPED services.
2. Describe central concepts, tools of inquiry and structures of the subject matter disciplines for PK-3 students receiving SPED services.
3. Utilize formative and summative assessments, to determine, select, and implement effective instructional strategies for PK-3 students receiving SPED services..

Below is a timeline providing background information on the APC in SPED:

**In March 2017** the APC in SPED was approved by the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the UH Board of Regents as meeting the criteria for a PK-12 SPED licensure program based on course content and clinical experience requirements.

**In June 2017** HTSB approved the APC in SPED for PK-3/K-6/6-12 SPED as an Add a Field pathway for candidates who hold a license in any other field.

**In September 2017** HTSB approved the APC in SPED for K-6/6-12 as an Initial Licensure program.

**In January 2021** Leeward CC onboarded two SPED Early Childhood Adjunct Faculty, Lilian Rebamonte and Saint-Marie Gough, to serve as SPED Instructors and College Supervisors for the APC in SPED.

**In March 2021** HTSB approved the 3+1 Bachelor's of Science in SPED as an initial licensure program for SPED PK-3. The 3+1 BS in SPED had already been approved as a SATEP for SPED K-6/6-12. Students complete 21cr. of the SPED-specific coursework at Leeward CC and an additional 9cr. at Chaminade University as well as the student teaching component.

**In April 2021**, Leeward CC's Campus Council identified a full-time SPED instructor as "Personnel Instructional Priority #1" for the 2021-2022 AY (see [\*Institutional Priority 2A\*](#)).

**In August 2021**, Leeward CC received approval to hire a [Full-Time Tenure Track 9-mo.Special Education Instructor](#)