

**New Business Item 21-19**  
Introduced November 19, 2021  
Approved November 19, 2021

**TITLE: Consideration of Teach Away's Hawaii Teacher Education Program  
Letter of Intent to Plan New Programs in Special Education Mild/Moderate,  
Early Childhood Education, and Elementary Education**

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The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board accepts the Letter of Intent from Teach Away's Hawaii Teacher Preparation Program to plan new programs in Special Education Mild/Moderate, Elementary Education, and Early Childhood Education.

The program's plans will address initial licensure for the following license fields:

- Special Education Mild/Moderate K-12
- Elementary Education K-6
- Early Childhood Education PK-3

Teach Away's Letter of Intent is 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 these programs as Hawaii licensure programs until such time that Provisional Approval is granted by the HTSB.

**Submitted by**      Branden Kawazoe

**Referred to:**      Teacher Education Committee



HAWAII TEACHER  
STANDARDS BOARD

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

### 1. CONTACT AND CONTEXT INFORMATION

#### EPP name and address

Name	Teach Away Inc.
Address	2927 Lakeshore Blvd West Suite #343 Toronto ON M8V 1J3 Canada
URL	<a href="https://www.teachaway.com/courses/hawaii-teacher-certification">https://www.teachaway.com/courses/hawaii-teacher-certification</a>

#### EPP administrator

Name	Rene Frey
Title	President
Email address	rene@teachaway.com
Telephone number	(647) 244-5829
National Accreditation Body and Dates of Accreditation (If Applicable)	AAQEP 7-year accreditation granted on 10/8/2021

#### SATEP Administrator, if different from EPP Administrator

Name	Irma Berardi
Title	Senior Manager, TCP

Email address	irma@teachaway.com
Telephone number	(808)439-6727

REV 4/14/2021

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

Name of Program	License Field(s)	License Level(s)	Projected Implementation Date
Teach Away Teacher Certification Program (TCP)	SPED Mild/Moderate	K-12	
	Early Childhood Education	PreK-3	
	Elementary	K-6	

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.

Teach Away's Teacher Certification Program (TCP) was developed with a programmatic goal - to prepare globally competent teachers for a world they're needed in. TCP is a flexible learning experience that includes an online core pedagogical curriculum with content-specific modules, a required Hawaiian History, Culture, and Language module, tailored field experiences, and an intensive clinical placement.

Teach Away has proven our ability to both drive interest in teaching in Hawai'i and in building a network of stakeholders and schools in the state to facilitate collaborative long-term partnerships. Our current partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Education to provide state-wide recruitment services was recently renewed for another year to December 2022 and so far we have successfully hired and placed over 70 teachers in Hawai'i in 2019. This will continue to assist the current hiring challenges faced by Hawai'i with our network of licensed teachers willing to meaningfully impact shortages.

Thus far, we have been able to provide teacher licensure pathways in the shortage areas of Secondary English, Secondary Math, Secondary Science and K-12 TESOL. To date, our Teacher Certification Program has licensed 32 teachers with another 60 currently enrolled and looking to become licensed in the state of Hawai'i. In order to ensure certified educators have the opportunity to continue their lifelong learning, Teach Away has developed a pathway to a Master's of Education program with Chaminade University, which will allow them to complete 12 credits towards their Master's by successfully being certified by our program. On October 8, Teach Away was granted a 7-year accreditation from AAQEP, providing additional support for the quality of our program and our candidates. This was largely based on the positive outcomes, commitment to improvement and innovative model of our program in Hawai'i.

Since launching our program, we have generated great interest in the certification areas of Elementary (K-6), Early Childhood Education (P-3) and Special Education (K-12), and once approved, we will be able to fill the gap accordingly by enrolling and licensing teachers in these essential and high-need areas.

The state is experiencing teacher shortages in rural communities for which it is harder to recruit and retain talent. Teach Away attracts passionate educators who are relocation-ready and adventure seeking. These traits, paired with the invaluable experience teaching ESL that many of our educators have, creates a funnel of potential teacher candidates who are set for success in remote and isolated regions in the state.

### **Early Childhood**

The 2019 legislative session approved support that enabled 10 more Pre-Kindergarten classrooms to open in fall 2020. Though this original goal was impacted by budget cuts related to the pandemic, 7 additional positions (to support 7 new classrooms) were created, with ambitious goals to continue increasing access for students. As the state of Hawai'i continues to expand the support of the Pre-K-3 system there is an increased need for highly capable educators to support students. Teach Away is engaged in training educators in key areas of need in Hawai'i. Teach Away's continued work in Hawai'i aims to support the P-20 system to support the needs for highly qualified educators in early childhood.

The State plan for early learning has identified a well-prepared, well-supported workforce as a key strategic pillar with a key strategy of accessible career entry and advancement pathways. Teach Away hopes to support a well-prepared workforce through a high quality Early Childhood Education program. Teach Away has significant reach into educators that are interested in ECE teaching positions. Our program provides an alternative and accessible pathway for committed educators looking to become more highly qualified.

### **Elementary**

The state of Hawai'i has many rural and hard-to-staff locations. Expanding the Teach Away offering in the state to Elementary will deepen the pool of qualified teacher


candidates, many of whom already have experience teaching in hard-to-staff locations. Teach Away’s Elementary program will provide an additional avenue for prospective and experienced teachers to enter the teacher workforce in Hawai’i. We are confident that with our track record of selecting highly competitive, highly qualified teachers in Secondary that we can help to enhance the pool of Elementary teachers as well. Teach Away already operates a successful Elementary program in the state of Arizona, and has a track record with that program of graduating committed and experienced completers.

**Special Education**

As an active participant in the P-20 education system in Hawaii, we hope to support in an area of high need through Special Education licensure. The Hawai’i State Teacher Association labels the lack of special educators a “crisis” in Hawai’i and Hawaii has introduced additional benefits to teachers due to the shortage. With our pipeline of interested teachers, Teach Away has the opportunity to contribute a cadre of highly qualified special education teachers in Hawai’i.

The 2017-8 Superintendent’s Special Education task force declared the intention to “expand partnerships to support licensing and certification of special education teachers” as a key lever to sustain improvement in statewide special education. Teach Away has significant reach into educators that are interested in special education teaching positions. As an alternative route, we hope to bring new educators to Special Education in Hawai’i, as well as, provide new affordable pathways to those looking to become prepared as a Special Education educator.

**3. SIGNATURES**

	Enter Title and Typed Name	Signature	Date
EPP Head	Rene Frey, President		Oct 25, 2021
Program Head	Irma Berardi, Senior Manager	<i>Irma A. Berardi</i>	Oct 25, 2021
Program Contact	Rene and Irma 647-244-5829	<a href="mailto:rene@teachaway.com">rene@teachaway.com</a> <a href="mailto:irma@teachaway.com">irma@teachaway.com</a>	Oct 25, 2021