

New Business Item 24-20 Revised

Introduced January 17, 2025

Approved January 17, 2025

Reintroduced March 28, 2025

Approved March 28, 2025

TITLE: The University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies Elementary Education Program Review

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) recommends provisional program approval for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (BAES) Elementary Education program ([New Business Item 22-60 Revised](#)). In consultation with university colleagues, the UHH faculty changed the Bachelor of Science program to a Bachelor of Arts program.

Since March 2024, the Program Review Committee has analyzed all aspects of the UHH BAES Elementary Education program using the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §8-54-19(1-5) and §8-54-20(1-2) and Hawai'i State Approved Program Standards ([New Business Item 17-39](#)).

UHH faculty was responsive to the committee's feedback and hosted an in-person meeting with HTSB staff in July 2024. The faculty revised the BAES program to ensure it met UHH, the HAR, and the HTSB requirements while maintaining UHH School of Education's philosophy and HEART (Holistic, Empathetic, Artistic, Rigorous, and Transformational).

The committee highlighted the following aspects of the UHH BAES program which led to recommending program approval.

- The Curriculum Sequence is structured around four thematic blocks: 1) Learner and Learning, 2) Content, 3) Instructional Practice, and 4) Professional Responsibility. The thematic blocks align with the Hawai'i Teacher Performance Standards.
- Teacher candidates build content knowledge in the program's first year, requiring thirteen prerequisite courses. Teacher candidates learn to integrate content area subjects and design curriculum units in the second year. Knowledge of integrated curriculum units will be instrumental in teaching and learning for these future elementary teachers.
- While this is an elementary education K-6 program, the committee recommends threading early childhood developmental concepts throughout the courses. Intentional activities designed for early childhood concepts will help teacher candidates know how to support elementary students whose developmental needs may differ from their grade-level peers.
- The program offers courses in all content areas that an elementary education teacher must teach and assess. Two courses (ED 270 Health and Wellness Education, ED 272 Art, Music, and Drama Education) can strengthen instructional concepts to align with [national content area standards](#) for teacher preparation programs (i.e., [Society of Health and Physical Education](#), [National Art Education Association](#)).

- Courses are culturally responsive and embed topics relevant within the Hawai'i context and in the Hawai'i Department of Education or Hawai'i Public Charter Schools (e.g., ED 450 Learning and Teaching in Hawai'i Schools, ED 471 Ethics for Educators, Nā Hopena A'o).
- Cooperating teachers receive training on using teacher candidates' assessment and evaluation instruments for Classroom Observations, Professional Attributes, and Professional Competencies. The UHH faculty has a process to support cooperating teachers throughout the school year.
- The program requires a summer field practicum course allowing teacher candidates to learn alongside their cooperating teacher at the start of the K-6 public school year (July/August).
- The BAES Program and Field Experiences Handbook describes faculty and cooperating teachers' roles and responsibilities and teacher candidates' expectations, program requirements, developmental phases of the field experience, and available support.

Upon program approval, UHH will have a bachelor's and master's degree licensure pathway for Elementary Education.

Rationale/Background:

The UHH faculty submitted a Letter of Intent to Plan a New Program in Elementary Education ([New Business Item 22-60 Revised](#)). Changes in the type of degree were made from a Bachelor of Science program to a Bachelor of Arts program. Upon successful program completion, teacher candidates will be recommended for an initial license in Elementary Education K-6.

Cost:

Program Review Round 1: \$500 each x 3 reviewers x 2 review cycles = \$3,000
 HTSB staff travel to Hilo for in person meeting: \$500.00.
 All committee meetings were conducted on Zoom.

Program Review Committee Bios:

Akeyo H. Garcia has been an elementary school teacher in Hawai'i's public school system since 2009. As a classroom teacher, she also was a mentor teacher for teacher candidates enrolled in an educator preparation program. Akeyo holds a National Board Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood Generalist and advanced teaching licenses covering preschool to sixth grade in general education and preschool to third grade in special education. She earned master's degrees in Curriculum Studies and Early Childhood Education from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Education. Akeyo received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) in 2016.

Kristi Oda has been recognized as a National Board Certified Teacher, specializing as a Middle Childhood Generalist, for 21 years. She earned her professional diploma in Elementary Education and bachelor's degree in Psychology. As a librarian and a fourth-grade teacher, Kristi was selected to be a Fellow and sponsored to represent Hawai'i at national science and teacher leadership conferences. She has formally supported National Board candidates, mentored teacher candidates, helped with state assessment item reviews, and coordinated several

regional teacher conferences and international summer camps. For five years, Kristi was a State Office Teacher in the Hawai'i Department of Education's Leadership Institute, where she coached teacher leaders. Kristi returned to the classroom setting as a sixth-grade teacher.

Ronnie Tiffany-Kinder, Ed.D., is a School Renewal Specialist for the Kailua-Kalāheo Complex in the Hawai'i Department of Education. Ronnie has worked in public education for 29 years. She has experience as a PK-12 classroom teacher and was a faculty member in the College of Education, Elementary Education Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). She taught methods courses, supervised student teachers and assisted in developing the Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Elementary Education program. Ronnie earned her Ed.D. in Professional Educational Practice from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Jennifer F.M. Padua, Ph.D., is a Licensing Specialist at the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. Jennifer earned her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she was a faculty member for 11 years in the College of Education's Elementary Education Program. Her experiences include working as a Senior Literacy Specialist throughout the United States Affiliated Pacific Region and as a classroom and resource teacher in the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee

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