

**TITLE: Final Completion Pathway for Teach Away-Hawai'i Candidates
Affected by Program Closure**

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) acknowledges and accepts the support of Hawai'i Pacific University, Chaminade University, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in assisting teacher candidates who were impacted by the closure of Teach Away-Hawai'i (read [NBI 24-19](#)). These participating institutions may provide a pathway for eligible Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates to complete their teacher preparation programs under the following conditions:

- Accept successfully completed credits from Teach Away-Hawai'i's program before its bankruptcy.
- Allow candidates to complete remaining licensure program requirements such as:
 - Meeting basic skills and content knowledge (read [NBI 12-29 Revised](#)).
 - Completing coursework related to their licensure field and grade level.
 - Meeting Hawai'i-specific requirements (read [Hawaii Administrative Rules §8-54-19\(1-4\)](#)).
 - InTASC Performance Standards.
 - Professional and Ethical Dispositions.
 - Student standards adopted by the department.
 - Teaching of reading, including working with students with reading difficulties.
 - Working effectively with students with disabilities, including training related to participation as a member of individualized education program teams.
 - Integrating technology effectively into curricula and instruction, including activities consistent with the principles of universal design for learning.
 - The use of technology to effectively collect, manage and analyze data to improve teaching and learning for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement.
 - Passing content knowledge licensure exams before starting clinical experience/student teaching.
 - Completing a minimum of 450 hours of clinical experience/student teaching as outlined in [NBI 12-17 Revised](#), [NBI 11-03 Revised](#), and [HAR §8-54-19 \(5\)\(A\)](#).
 - Teacher candidates must complete the full 450 hours in a placement aligned with the licensure area they are seeking in order to be eligible for recommendation for licensure.
 - Teacher candidates must abide by the clinical experience/student teaching requirements set forth by the participating institution.

Upon meeting teacher licensure requirements, the participating institution will submit a Program Completer Recommendation to the HTSB for the Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates. Due to these unique accommodations, Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates will not be included in the participating institution's Program Completer data for the HTSB Annual Report or the Title II Federal Report.

Due to the closure of Teach Away-Hawai'i, candidates will not receive a formal transcript from the defunct institution. Should any Teach Away-Hawai'i candidate complete their licensure requirements from any of the participating institutions, they will not receive an official transcript from these universities. In its place, the participating universities will issue an official letter detailing the program components each candidate successfully completed, which may be used to support a recommendation for licensure in Hawai'i.

Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates will be advised by the participating institution that completing their teacher licensure program may affect licensure reciprocity with other U.S. states, U.S. jurisdictions, or international entities that require formal official transcripts verifying completion of preparation program.

In addition, Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates will be required to meet the admission and financial obligations, as well as any other requirements set by the participating institution in order to complete their licensure program.

The Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), the accrediting body for the supporting institutions, has been notified and has expressed its support for the Hawai'i-approved participating institutions assisting these teacher candidates. AAQEP wrote a formal letter acknowledging the termination of Teach Away-Hawai'i (read attached AAQEP Letter).

All Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates must complete their program requirements no later than the end of the 2025–2026 school year (Spring 2026). Candidates who do not complete their licensure program by this deadline will be required to enroll in and complete a new state-approved educator preparation program in order to be eligible for a HTSB license.

Rationale/Background:

On December 4, 2024, HTSB staff was informed that the transition of Kesson Group, LLC, which had previously operated independently was acquired by Pluribus Technologies, Inc.. This transition resulted in the discontinuation of new teacher candidate enrollments in the company's alternative certification division (read [NBI 24-19](#)) and included the retirement of one of the two remaining staff members supporting Hawai'i Teach Away candidates.

On January 17, 2025, the Board was formally notified of the closure of the Teach Away-Hawai'i program via [NBI 24-19](#), which included a teach-out plan to support affected

candidates in completing their program.

On March 25, 2025, HTSB received communication from the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pluribus Technologies inquiring about the possibility of starting new candidate cohorts. However, around the same time, HTSB began receiving complaints from Teach Away-Hawai'i teacher candidates about a complete loss of communication, stating they were unable to reach any representatives from Teach Away, including the new CEO.

On April 12, 2025, HTSB was notified that the last remaining Teach Away-Hawai'i staff member had departed from the organization. HTSB was then provided contact information for the new CEO of Pluribus Technologies.

In response, HTSB staff reached out to the new CEO on May 7, 2025, seeking clarification about the lack of communication and the status of the teach-out plan. The only response received from the new CEO was a request for contract information, with no further details or follow-up provided.

On May 15, 2025, HTSB was officially notified that Teach Away had declared immediate bankruptcy, leaving enrolled teacher candidates without clear direction or support to complete their certification programs.

Following several meetings among the new CEO, returning Teach Away staff, representatives from their accrediting body AAQEP, and HTSB staff, collaborative efforts were made to determine appropriate next steps for impacted teacher candidates. As a result of these discussions, HTSB received a finalized list of affected candidates. However, communication from Teach Away representatives ceased shortly after the list was provided.

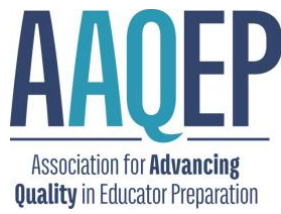
In response, HTSB staff organized and facilitated a virtual meeting with Hawai'i-approved EPPs that were willing to assist and Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates to discuss available pathways for program completion and licensure. HTSB Licensing Staff has also provided guidance for Teach Away-Hawai'i candidates.

Cost:

All costs are included in the current staff job duties/responsibilities.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee



June 24, 2025

Felicia Villalobos, Executive Director
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 268
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Felicia,

This letter comes to notify you of the formal termination of accreditation for the Teacher Certification Program offered by Teach Away. I know that you are familiar with the course of events that led to the closure, so will not detail them here. AAQEP received formal notice that the program no longer exists, and our website now reflects its closure (it now appears on the [‘formerly accredited’](#) page) and the termination of its accreditation status as of June 11, 2024.

All of us at AAQEP value our ongoing partnership with EPPs that are SATEPs in Hawaii, and with you and with all at HTSB.

Wishing you a good remainder of the summer,

All the best,

Mark

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark LaCelle-Peterson".

Mark LaCelle-Peterson, EdD
President and CEO