

**REPORT TO
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE**

**Online Learning Task Force
Act 275 SLH 2007**

Participants

Steering Committee

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SUBJECT: Online Learning Task Force

REFERENCE: Act 275, SLH 2007

ACTION REQUESTED: To create an online learning task force to develop a systematic plan to expand opportunities for online learning and develop a phased plan with desirable outcomes to enhance the learning experiences of students across the State.

DOE REPORT:

The Department of Education (DOE) convened a task force composed of members from the DOE, Board of Education, University of Hawaii System and the business community as requested.

The strategic goals of the DOE are:

1. Improve student achievement through standards-based education;
2. Sustain comprehensive support for all students; and
3. Continuously improve performance and quality.

The following goals and measurements were established to provide focus for the task force. The DOE is responsible for implementation of the plan.

GOALS	
	• Within 3 years, 10,000 of Hawaii's public secondary school students will take at least one online course during their school experience.
	• Within 3 years, all public secondary school students will have access to online remedial/regular/credit recovery learning materials that are designed to help them meet proficiency in Hawaii Content and Performance standards and increase on-time graduation rates.
	• Within 5 years, all public secondary school students will have access to online Advance Placement courses in the STEM disciplines.
	• Within 3 years, 500 of Hawaii's teachers will have completed training in online teaching.

These goals are aligned with the DOE's Strategic Plan.

Phased Implementation	
Phase I – Dec 2007	Complete legislative report
Phase II – July 2008	Complete studies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and practices for online learning • Governance • Operational framework



Phased Implementation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student support infrastructure • Funding model
Phase III – SY 2008-09	2,500 students using online learning
Phase IV – SY 2009-10	5,000 students using online learning
Phase V – SY 2010-11	10,000 students using online learning

FINDINGS:

- There are two types of online learning programs:
 - Full time online learning provider: enrolling school authorized to deliver comprehensive public education, also known as “Cyber Academy” – Example: Myron B. Thompson Academy
 - Supplemental online training: Online course available to students at a “regular school” – Example: DOE E-School

Although Distance Learning is mentioned in this report, it is not included in the measurements for “online learning.”

- North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) conducted a statistically valid survey of DOE’s online status and needs for secondary schools. There were a total of 161 respondents for the high school survey, and 121 respondents for the middle school survey.
 - High School Survey
 - Current Usage of Online Offerings: 75% of respondents say they are using online learning in Hawaii
 - Credit recovery is the primary usage (82%)
 - Commercial providers and E-School are the prime sources of content
 - Schools limit the number of courses taken (42%) – typically from a computer lab
 - Onsite support provided – (72%)
 - There are teachers who currently teach online courses at their school (32%)
 - Top two reasons for current limitation of online learning
 - Lack of funding to cover cost of fees
 - Unaware that online learning opportunities exist
 - Level of Need
 - 55% point to remediation (not credit recovery)
 - 34% say “for students not doing well in traditional classroom”
 - 27% say “to fulfill graduation requirements”
 - High need high school courses same as other states
 - Algebra I
 - English I
 - Biology
 - AP Biology
 - AP US History
 - AP Calculus
 - Need for Foreign languages higher than most states



- 58% say need for online Professional Development for teachers and others

- Middle School Survey high need courses are:
 - Grade 8 English Language Arts
 - Grade 8 Math
 - Grade 8 Social Studies
 - Grade 8 Earth/Space Science
 - Computer Literacy

- A national perspective is provided by a recently published research document entitled: *Keeping Pace with k-12 Online Learning 2007* by John Watson and Jennifer Ryan, Evergreen Consulting Associates.
 - Online Learning Market growing at 25% annually . . . still less than 2% of all students are impacted.
 - 38 states have established e-learning initiatives.
 - Hawaii is among 14 states that have both full time and supplemental online programs.
 - 72% of school districts with distance education programs plan to expand offerings.
 - Florida virtual school – over 100,000 course enrollments in 2007-08.
 - In 2006, Michigan became the first state to require students to take an online course as a graduation requirement.



Figure 1: National summary of how online learning is being implemented across the country.

- Online learning is accessible throughout the state; many opportunities are “under the radar” and not widely known.
 - The DOE E-School and Myron B. Thompson Academy provide online courses statewide.
 - Over 100 schools have contracted with outside providers like NovaNet, All About Kids, Hippocampus, Imagine Learning, to provide online learning for a fee.
 - Teleschool provides distance learning and pod casting services to over 5600 students.
 - Many schools are utilizing reading, writing, and math tools to enhance student performance like Vantage Learning, River Deep, Plato, Explore Learning, and Atomic Learning.
 - There are also online assessment tools like Benchmark Tracker and Edison.
 - Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) like the University of Hawaii and Brigham Young University are involved with online learning for many courses. High school students are taking some of them.

