



# EARLY CHILDHOOD MASTER'S PROGRAM

## Fact Sheet: Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

**What:** The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and College of Education (COE) jointly offer an innovative program that develops leaders to serve in fields related to early childhood education and care. The program focuses equally on early childhood education, child and family development, and special education.

This thirty-credit cohort program is designed to be completed in three years through a combination of three-week mandatory sessions for three consecutive summers and a variety of online, condensed or semester long on-campus classes to complete electives. Eighteen credits are offered in mandatory three-week sessions held for three consecutive summers from mid-June to mid-July and the remaining 12 credits are delivered on-line or in a variety of formats that students may select from. At the end of the program students complete either a Plan A Thesis or a Plan B Professional Portfolio Project.

Each cohort includes a special credit/no credit Summer Symposium that may be used to fulfill one of the elective courses. Symposium speakers have included internationally recognized leaders in the field of Early Childhood Education.

**Where:** Summer courses are held at the UH Mānoa campus. The remaining two or three classes are offered both online and on campus. Off-island students are able to complete the entire program through a combination of attendance in the summer sessions and via online coursework.

**Who:** Students come from around the world, including Hawai'i, American Samoa, Singapore, California and Washington. Hawaii based employers have included Kamehameha Schools, the UH system, the DOE, private programs, non-profit agencies such as the Parent and Child Centers, and programs serving the Hawaiian community such as 'Aha Pūnana Leo, and Nā Kamalei. The average number of students in each cohort ranges from 25 to 32. The maximum number accepted is 32.

**When:** A new cohort begins every three years. The next cohort begins in the summer of 2009. The application deadline is **January 31, 2009**.

**Why:** This program is designed to develop leaders in the field of early childhood education and care. Many students attribute new jobs or roles within their current jobs to this program and many have gone on to provide leadership in the areas of research, program management, and advocacy. As one student said, "Through this program, you have helped me to turn my narrow alleys of thought into broad boulevards, with many venues branching off!"

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