



E Kūkulu Ke Kahua a Pa‘a
Build The Foundation Until Firm

NSF-TCUP LEADERS' FORUM
November 15, 2025

TCUP for Secondary and Elementary Teachers in STEM (TSETS)




University of Hawai'i, Kaua'i Community College





TSETS Strand

TCUP for Secondary & Elementary Teachers in STEM (TSETS) supports in-service **professional development in STEM** disciplinary or STEM education content and/or research for **K-12** STEM teachers in the **relevant** service area. Examples of project activities include, but are not limited to, professional development involving seminar series and engagement in STEM **instruction** and **content** during the academic year, structured series of summer intensive **workshops and trainings**, and summer research opportunities. The objective of this strand is to broaden the **instructional capacity** for STEM in the K-12 workforce and thereby to the entire **community**, and to build the capacity for STEM disciplinary or education research among participating educational professionals.







Kaua‘i CC Mission Statement



Ke kū nei ke Kulanui Kaiāulu ma Kaua‘i
ma ke ‘ano he kahua e
ho‘oulu, ho‘ā, a ho‘oikaika ‘ia ai ka ‘ike a
me ka na‘auao o nā
kānaka a‘o aku a a‘o mai no ka
ho‘owaiwai ‘ana i ke kaiāulu a me ka
honua.

Kauai Community College is a kahua that
inspires, engages, and empowers learners and
educators to enrich our community and our
world.

‘O ke kahua ma mua, ma hope ke kūkulu.
First comes the foundation, then comes the building.
(‘Ōlelo No‘eau, number 2459)








Kaua‘i CC Strategic Plan

Imperative K - Fulfill Kuleana to Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i

Model what it means to be an indigenous-serving and indigenous-centered institution:

- Incorporate culturally relevant pedagogy into programs and extracurricular activities
 - Authenticate use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i
 - Strengthen partnerships with organizations serving the Native Hawaiian Community
 - Ensure place-based education in every program
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‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i





Pilina in Practice



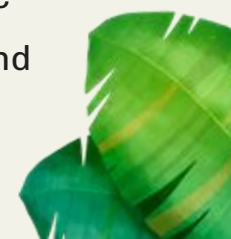
E Kūkulu Ke Kahua a Pa‘a was born out of nā pilina, the relationships and connections between the following community members:

- Educators
 - Professors at Kaua‘i CC
 - Curriculum Specialists at DOE
 - K-8 teachers
 - School Leaders
 - Principals at charter and public schools
 - Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Kaua‘i CC
 - Funding Source
 - Project officers at the National Science Foundation (NSF) TSETS branch
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Project Objectives

E Kūkulu Ke Kahua a Pa‘a Project aims to:

- Increase effectiveness (knowledge and quality) of K-8 mathematics instruction through **professional development and mentorship** focused on improving conceptual understanding of mathematics and pedagogy
 - Develop and improve place-based **curriculum**, assessments, and rubrics for five elementary grade levels
 - Reduce the need for remedial instruction through adequate preparation and access for Native Hawaiian students to matriculate to postsecondary education. Achieve through the creation of **high quality mathematics pathways** for grades K-8 to align with high school and dual credit mathematics.
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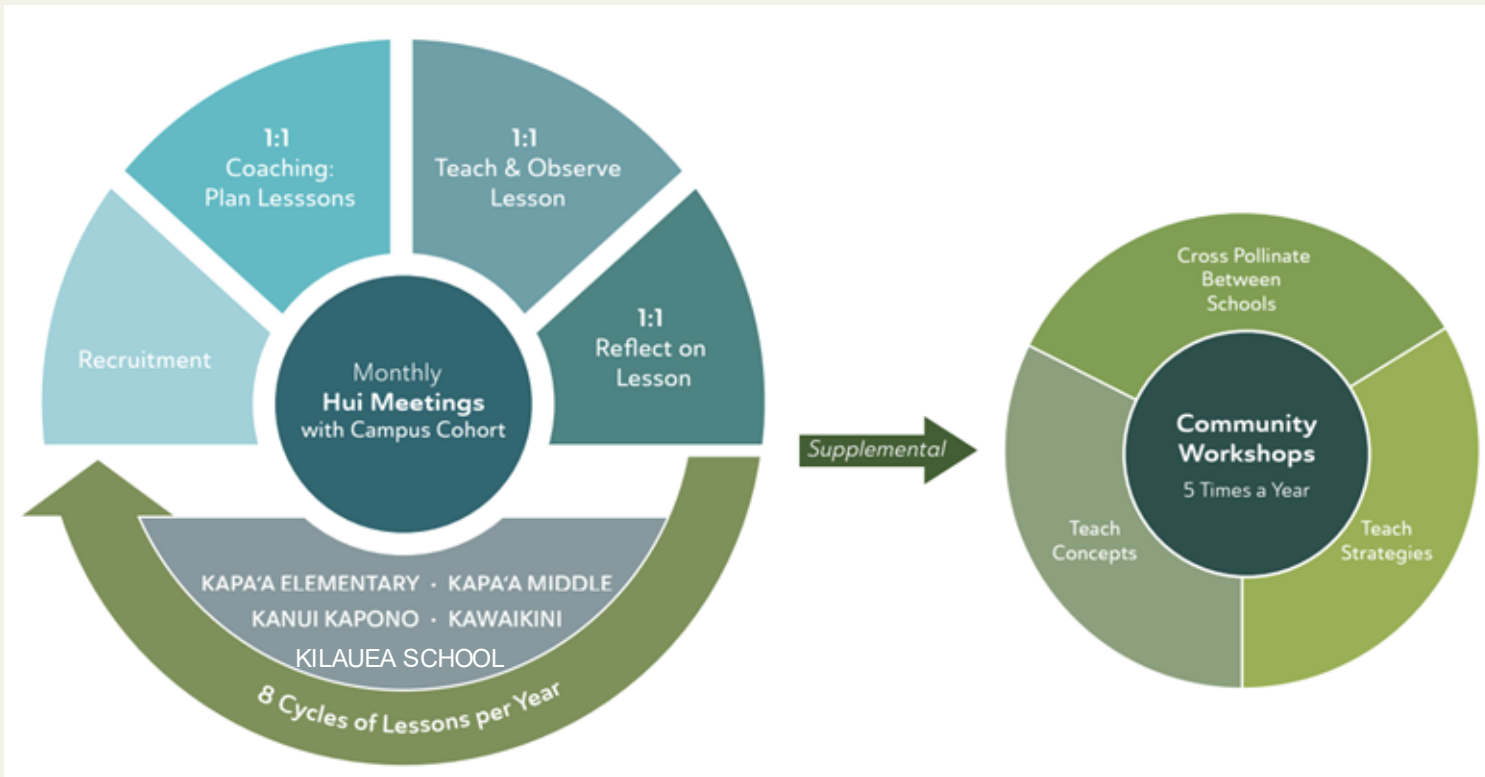
Objective #1

Professional Development & Mentorship

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Professional Development Cycle



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PD Cycle - Lesson Learned



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Objective #2

Improved Curriculum

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Ōlelo Hawai‘i

3. He 215 kakā kā ka mahi‘ai.
Ma hope o ke kū‘ai ‘ana aku i kekahi mau kakā, he 36 mau kakā i koe. ‘Ehia mau kakā i kū‘ai aku ‘ia?
4. Ua kū‘ai mai ‘o Makua i pelamakani no \$127.
He \$53 āna kālā i koe.
‘Ehia āna kālā ma ka makamua?
5. He 324 kal ke kaumaha o ke kāpiki.
He 86 kal emi mai ke kaumaha o ke ka‘ukama ma mua o ke kāpiki.
 - (a) ‘Ehia kal ke kaumaha o ke ka‘ukama?
 - (b) E ho‘omākalakala i ka huinanui kaumaha o ke ka‘ukama a me ke kāpiki.



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Relevant & Contextual

It works!

Dino

$P = 28 \text{ in.}$

Add it all up.

27 in

Perimeter mean
to me like meger and ad
all the in and shans feet.

How I solve the Yes,
perimeter of the shape was
putting all the measurements
from each side together.

$P = 36$

Great shapes!

Perimeter means to
like the shape

$P = 38 \text{ cm}$

$10 + 10 + 9 + 9 = 38$

I find all the numbers =
and plus them all together.

$P = 31$

Objective #3

HI Quality Math Pathways

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Kaua'i Math Summit



♥ 41 Q ↻ ▼



🌍👤 Liked by [erinamillard](#) and [others](#)
[kauaicommunitycollege](#) 🇺🇸 Big milestone!

The NSF TSETS Grant E Kūkulu Ke Kahua a Pa'a: Build the Foundation Until Firm just wrapped up its second year with the very first Kaua'i Math Summit, co-hosted with HIDEO!

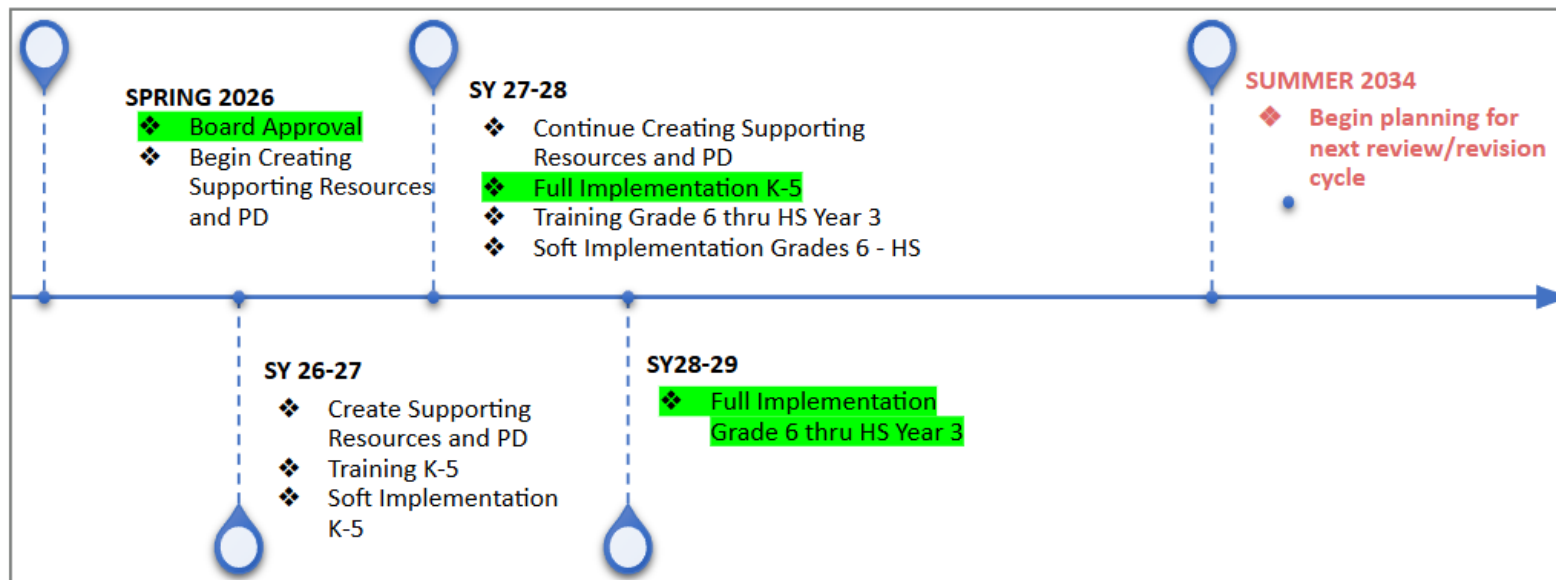
Over 50 educators from across Kaua'i and O'ahu gathered to strengthen math instruction and share ideas that support students at every grade level.





Standards Timeline

- Standards





Mahalo!

Gigi Drent, Professor / PI

Kaua'i Community College

gdrent@hawaii.edu

(808) 245-8989

