School Status and Improvement Report

School Year 2024-25

About School Status and Improvement Report

This report is updated annually to reflect the school's performance and progress. It includes information on the school's environment, staff, students, facilities, and academic achievement.

School Information:

School code: 389

Grades: 9-12

Complex Area:
Hilo-Waiakea

Principal:
Kelcy Koga

School Address:
155 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: 808-480-3200

Website:
https://www.waiakeahigh.k12.hi.us

Accreditation Status:

Waiākea High School is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges for a period of six years. This school's accreditation term expires in 2030.

This report is produced by the Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.
Email: OSIP-accountability.support@k12.hi.us

Run Date: November 27, 2025

Waiākea High School

Our Story

Waiākea High School (WHS), founded in 1976, is a fully accredited public high school in Hilo, Hawaii, serving approximately 1,250 students in grades 9-12. Located on a spacious campus adjacent to other schools and across from the University of Hawai'i-Hilo, WHS prioritizes college and career preparation.

Following a year of exploration in the Freshman Academy, students choose from twelve career pathways and join one of four academies: Academy of Industry and Technology, Arts and Communication Academy, Health Services Academy, and Public Services Academy. WHS emphasizes real-world experiences through work-based learning, research, internships, and industry certifications. All students, including those with special needs, are integrated into the academy model, which includes academy-specific advisory classes, and opportunities for Advanced Placement (AP), Early College, and Running Start (Dual Credit) programs.

Summary of Progress

Waiākea High has steadfastly maintained its purpose as an academy school for numerous years, guided by the leadership of a single principal for over 18 years. This long-standing stability has enabled the school to adopt the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC)'s National Standards of Practice (NSOPs) as the foundation for ongoing improvement. Guided by these standards, each academy engages in a continuous cycle of reflection and refinement, culminating in a rigorous national review by the NCAC. Since 2019, all five academies at Waiākea High have successfully completed this review process and achieved model status.

The 10 National Standards of Practice are:

1. NSOP 1 Mission and Goals. The career academy has a written mission, goals, and benchmarks. These are developed, reviewed, available, and known by the administrators, teachers, students, parents, advisory board, and others involved in the academy. These include at least the following elements: connect postsecondary education and career; raise and maintain student aspirations; increase student achievement; show a commitment to equity.
2. NSOP 2 Academy Design. An academy has a well-defined structure within the high school, reflecting its status as a small learning community.
3. NSOP 3 Host Community and High School. Career academies exist in a variety of district and high school contexts, which are important determinants of an academy's success.
4. NSOP 4 Faculty and Staff. Appropriate staff selection, leadership, credentialing, and cooperation are critical to an academy's success.
5. NSOP 5 Professional Development and Continuous Learning. Since an academy places teachers and other adults into roles not normally included in their previous training, providing adequate professional development time, leadership, and support is critical.
6. NSOP 6 Governance and Leadership. The academy has a governing structure that incorporates the views of all stakeholders and the leaders of the advisory board.
7. NSOP 7 Teaching and Learning. The teaching and learning within an academy meet or exceed external standards and postsecondary entrance requirements while differing from a comprehensive high school by focusing learning around a career theme.
8. NSOP 8 Employer, Postsecondary Education, and Community Involvement. A career academy links high school to its host community and involves members of the employer, postsecondary education, and civic community in certain aspects of its operation.
9. NSOP 9 Student Assessment. Improvements in student performance are central to an academy's mission. It is important to gather data that reflect whether students are showing improvement and to report these accurately and fairly to maintain the academy's integrity.
10. NSOP 10 Sustainability. No new academy functions perfectly. Even well established and highly functioning academies benefit from self-examination and refinement. Ensuring and improving the quality of a career academy requires engaging in a regular cycle of improvement.

In 2024–25, Waiākea High continued its active participation in Hawai'i Academies—a consortium of public high schools across the state that supports the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) design. As part of this collaboration, Waiākea hosted several events and campus visits to showcase its academy model in action. A highlight of these events was the participation of trained Waiākea Student Ambassadors, whose presentations and reflections offered powerful insights into the student experience.

Notably, Waiākea High hosted the nation's first Student Ambassador Insight Onsite, welcoming high school students from nine other schools for a full day of training led entirely by its own Student Ambassadors.

Waiākea High's graduating seniors continued to excel in Career and Technical Education (CTE) outcomes in 2024, with 46% earning CTE Honors and 92% recognized as CTE Concentrators.

Community Profile

High School Complex (HSC): Waiakea

Population

	Community	State
Total population	38,869	1,420,074
Percentage of population aged 5-19	18.9%	17.1%
Median age of population	42.6	39.4
Number of family households	3,837	147,383
Median household Income	$68,341	$83,173

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Educational Attainment Level

	Community	State
Bachelor's degree or higher	30.3%	33.5%
Associate's degree	13.4%	10.8%
Some college, no degree	19.3%	20.7%
High school graduate	29.9%	27.3%
Less than high school graduate	6.8%	7.5%

Student Profile

Enrollment

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Official Enrollment Count (OEC)	1,233	1,266	1,297	1,217	1,183
Enrolled for the entire school year	1,189	1,190	1,233	1,137	1,124
% of Official Enrollment Count	96.4%	93.9%	95.0%	93.4%	95.0%
Receiving special education services	101	118	130	139	150
% of Official Enrollment Count	8.1%	9.3%	10.0%	11.4%	12.7%
English Learners	18	35	52	58	54
% of Official Enrollment Count	1.4%	2.8%	4.0%	4.8%	4.6%
Eligible for free & reduced price meals	563	526	554	536	480
% of Official Enrollment Count	45.6%	41.5%	42.7%	44.0%	40.6%

Note: -- Missing data/no data.
* Data not reported to maintain student confidentiality (see FERPA).
** School is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision.

Enrollment by grade level is available at https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

Student Ethnicity, 2024-25

Total students: 1,183	Count	% of All Students
Native American	12	1.0%
Black	14	1.1%
Chinese	22	1.8%
Filipino	161	13.6%
Native Hawaiian	319	26.9%
Japanese	229	19.3%
Korean	11	0.9%
Portuguese	46	3.8%
Hispanic	24	2.0%
Samoan	11	0.9%
Indo-Chinese	13	1.0%
Micronesian	68	5.7%
Tongan	3	0.2%
Guamanian/Chamorro	3	0.2%
White	196	16.5%
White two or more	--	--
Other Asian	17	1.4%
Other Pacific Islander	21	1.7%
Pacific Islander two or more	--	--
Asian two or more	4	0.3%
Multiple, two or more	9	0.7%

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

Regular Attendance

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
85.4%	78.1%	83.6%	83.7%	83.2%

Note: Regular Attendance is the percent of students attending 90% of the instructional days. Due to the pandemic, 2020-21 attendance was mostly online.

Attendance information by student groups (e.g., ethnicity, high needs) is available at https://adc.hidoe.us.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

Young Voter Registration

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
--	280	--	--	--

Source: State of Hawai'i, Office of Elections.

Academic Achievement

Language Arts (LA) Proficiency and Growth

Grade	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth
11	75.0%	n/a	69.6%	n/a	72.8%	n/a	72.5%	n/a	61.1%	n/a

Math Proficiency and Growth

Grade	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth	Proficiency	Growth
11	33.8%	n/a	34.1%	n/a	44.0%	n/a	39.0%	n/a	42.3%	n/a

Science Proficiency

Grade	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Proficiency	Proficiency	Proficiency	Proficiency	Proficiency
HS	59.1%	56.5%	48.2%	43.4%	47.1%

Note: The Language Arts and Math assessment includes the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), KĀ‘EO and HSA-Alt. The Science assessment includes the HSA Science, Biology I End-of-Course Exam, HSA-Alt and KĀ‘EO.

Academic Growth: Percent of students making "typical" or better student growth from prior year (based on pre-pandemic growth on the SBA). Growth data is limited to Language Arts and Math for students in grades 4 to 8.

More information about student assessment participation and growth, including by grade level and student group (e.g., ethnicity, high needs) is available at https://adc.hidoe.us.

Source: Hawai‘i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

On-time Promotion and High School Completion

On-time Promotion Rate

	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State
9th to 10th grade	86.1%	85.0%	86.0%	88.8%	89.6%	91.9%	90.8%	91.0%	89.6%	92.3%

Note: The school year represents the initial grade level of the promotion. The promotion rates are limited to students at the initial grade level for the first time at the beginning of the school year. For example, the 5th to 6th grade promotion rate for SY 2024-25 reflects the percent of 5th grade students in SY 2024-25 promoted to 6th grade in SY 2025-26.

Source: Hawai‘i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

High School Completion by Graduating Class

		Class of 2021		Class of 2022		Class of 2023		Class of 2024		Class of 2025	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
On-time high school graduation[1]	School	260	90.2%	258	87.4%	282	90.6%	292	87.4%	306	90.5%
	State	11,117	85.9%	11,065	85.4%	11,274	85.7%	11,384	85.8%	11,700	86.9%
Extended high school completion[2]	School	270	93.4%	268	90.5%	291	93.5%	--	--	--	--
	State	11,411	88.3%	11,373	87.8%	11,622	88.3%	--	--	--	--

Note: * Data not reported to maintain student confidentiality (see FERPA).

[1] Students graduating with a high school diploma on-time in the cohort (i.e., 4 year adjusted cohort graduation rate).

[2] Students earning a high school diploma, Certificate of Completion, or Community School for Adults Diploma (i.e., GED, HiSET) within 5 years of high school.

High School Completion by Year

	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
School	265	97.7%	264	98.1%	290	98.3%	287	99.3%	311	98.4%
State	10,600	95.2%	10,558	96.0%	10,859	96.5%	10,910	96.6%	11,194	96.8%

Note: High school seniors receiving a high school diploma or a Certificate of Completion. The senior completion and on-time graduation counts may differ. For example, the on-time graduation counts can sometimes exceed the senior completion counts because they include summer graduates.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

School Profile

Positive Responses on School Quality Survey, 2024-25

	Return Rate [1]		Safety		Well-Being		Satisfaction		Engagement	
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State
Parent	6.5%	12.0%	77.7%	75.6%	83.7%	83.9%	79.4%	76.2%	71.3%	70.3%
Teacher	100.0%	76.7%	96.2%	70.4%	95.0%	73.0%	89.2%	68.3%	91.5%	69.6%
Student	88.4%	71.6%	70.1%	58.7%	--	--		--		--

Note: [1] The State Return Rate reflects the grade spans served by this school (Elementary, Middle, High, K-12, etc.).

The SQS is completed by students in grades 3-12, by parents of students in grades K-12, and by teachers in the school. State positive response figures represent grade spans that best correspond to this school (e.g., Elementary, Middle, High, K-12).

For more details, including data from prior years and response rates, visit http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports/sqs.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Accountability Section.

Student Conduct

	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Non-suspended students	1,231	99.8%	1,195	94.3%	1,197	92.2%	1,151	94.5%	1,137	96.1%
Suspended students	2	0.1%	71	5.6%	100	7.7%	66	5.4%	46	3.8%
Total Cases	2		88		142		85		58	
Class A	1	50.0%	54	61.3%	89	62.6%	47	55.2%	43	74.1%
Class B	0	0.0%	2	2.2%	26	18.3%	9	10.5%	2	3.4%
Class C	1	50.0%	31	35.2%	27	19.0%	29	34.1%	13	22.4%
Class D	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Examples of class suspensions
- Class A: Assault, burglary, robbery, sale of dangerous drugs
- Class B: Disorderly conduct, trespassing
- Class C: Class cutting, insubordination, smoking
- Class D: Contraband (e.g. possession of tobacco)

For more information about the student misconduct and discipline code, please see Chapter 19 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules at https://boe.hawaii.gov/administrative-rules/

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Information Technology Services.

School Staffing

	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
Teaching Staff	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	76.5		77.0		76.0		77.0		78.0	
Regular instruction FTE[1]	58.5	76.4%	58.0	75.3%	54.0	71.0%	55.0	71.4%	59.0	75.6%
Special instruction FTE[1]	17.0	22.2%	18.0	23.3%	21.0	27.6%	21.0	27.2%	18.0	23.0%
Supplemental instruction FTE[1]	1.0	1.3%	1.0	1.2%	1.0	1.3%	1.0	1.2%	1.0	1.2%
Teacher headcount	77.0		77.0		76.0		77.0		78.0	
Teacher Qualifications and Experience	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Classes taught by HQ teachers[2]	606	90.5%	663	92.8%	541	86.8%	575	88.8%	591	89.0%
Average years of experience	15.9		15.7		15.9		16.0		15.3	
Fully licensed	76.0	98.7%	75.0	97.4%	70.0	92.1%	72.0	93.5%	77.0	98.7%
5 or more years at this school	53.0	68.8%	53.0	68.8%	49.0	64.4%	55.0	71.4%	53.0	67.9%
Advanced degrees	32.0	41.5%	32.0	41.5%	30.0	39.4%	30.0	38.9%	33.0	42.3%
National Board Certified Teachers	4	5.1%	4	5.1%	4	5.2%	4	5.1%	5	6.4%
Administrative and Student Services Staff	#		#		#		#		#	
Principals at this school in the last 5 yrs	1		1		1		1		1	
Administration[3], FTE	7.0		8.0		8.0		7.0		8.0	
Librarians, FTE	1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0	
Counselors, FTE	6.0		6.0		6.0		6.0		6.0	

Note: [1] Total of these three categories may not equal 100% due to rounding.

[2] Classes taught by teachers meeting ESSA Highly Qualified (HQ) Teacher requirements in the subject area as defined by ESSA.

[3] Administration includes Principals, Vice-Principals, Student Activity Coordinators, Student Services Coordinators, Registrars, and Athletic Directors.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Talent Management.

School Allocation and Expenditure of State General Funds

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
School salaried payroll	$8,465,074	$8,414,873	$8,854,710	$9,405,094	$10,120,403
Allocation for operating funds[1]	$1,155,361	$1,927,524	$2,217,814	$2,806,440	$2,805,759
Expended	$380,601	$975,900	$844,273	$792,199	$1,118,130
Encumbered	$63,022	$490,033	$789,248	$1,325,236	$1,046,533
Carryover	$711,738	$461,591	$584,293	$689,005	$641,096

Note: [1] Excluding school salaried payroll.

Fiscal Accountability data prepared and reported as of October 29, 2025.
For more details about school allocation and expenditure, please visit http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports/essa.

Source: Hawai'i State Department of Education Office of Fiscal Services.

More Information

School Facilities

View comprehensive school reports at the Hawaii-Facilities Inspection Tool website: https://hidoehifit.4dapt.com.

Resources

For more detailed information about school's performance and progress, please visit:

(a) ARCH: http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports
(b) ARCH ADC: https://adc.hidoe.us
(c) LEI Kukui: http://hidoedata.org