Background

During school year (SY) 2020-2021, the Hawai‘i Department of Education (Department) worked with ClimbHI to roll out ClimbHI Bridge, an online portal that connects educators with businesses for work-based learning experiences and subject matter expertise. This opportunity was made possible through a generous gift by the Hawai‘i Executive Collaborative and other partners. ClimbHI Bridge proved to not only be an effective tool, but a resource that assisted the Department in accomplishing impressive milestones while navigating unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. A heartfelt mahalo goes out to the 270+ businesses and entities that ClimbHI brought on to the portal; as a result of the 1,233 in-kind hours they provided, over 11,800 students were reached.

Among the milestones were a statewide kick-off event, 3 statewide trainings for high school and middle school Portal Resource Managers (PRMs), and 11 high school and middle school user trainings held at the district level.

The formalized partnership began on October 12, 2020, when the Department and ClimbHI, a non-profit organization, entered into a Cooperative Agreement for the use of the ClimbHI Bridge. Access to ClimbHI Bridge, including support from ClimbHI, has been gifted to the Department through SY2024-2025. Goals include modernizing and providing equitable access to opportunities for financial self-sufficiency, networking, student learning, career development, and goal attainment.

On December 16, 2020, a virtual statewide kick-off meeting announcing ClimbHI Bridge was held via Webex. There were 108 individuals in attendance. Featured speakers included Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent; Steve Petranik, a representative for the Hawai‘i Executive Collaborative; and Julie Morikawa, ClimbHI President. Testimonials were also shared regarding the benefits of using the online portal from business and educator perspectives.
Onboarding

Following the launch, ClimbHI and members of the Department’s Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design, Career Readiness Team (OCID ClimbHI Team) - led by Interim Assistant Superintendent Teri Ushijima, Ed.D., Interim Director Dan Miyamoto, Interim Administrator Wendi Vincent, Educational Specialist for Career and Technical Education Evangeline Casinas, and State Resource Teacher Alison Inouye - implemented a three-phase onboarding plan:

1. high schools;
2. middle /intermediate schools; and
3. elementary schools.

For each phase:
- The school principal identified their school’s point of contact, or Portal Resource Manager (PRM).
- ClimbHI created accounts for PRMs to access the ClimbHI Bridge network portal.
- PRMs were invited to a statewide training and informational session hosted by the OCID ClimbHI Team and ClimbHI. PRMs received instructions on how to identify additional educators at their schools to use the platform.
- Identified school users were subsequently provided login information and invited to attend the school user training hosted by the OCID ClimbHI Team and ClimbHI. Principals and support staff were also invited to attend.

On January 14, 2021, ClimbHI and the OCID ClimbHI Team conducted the first statewide virtual ClimbHI Bridge training for high school PRMs. Approximately 100 educators attended.

School User Trainings

At each phase of onboarding, district school user trainings were held. PRMs first submitted their school user lists to ClimbHI, upon which ClimbHI emailed password and login information. The OCID ClimbHI Team subsequently sent calendar invitations for school users to attend their respective district school user training.

Training sessions included a live demonstration of the portal and sharing of educator resources that included training videos, a one-page resource guide, official memos, and contact information. All training sessions were recorded and resources shared during the session were emailed to all users in a follow-up communication.

Training schedules were established and communicated to the field to support PRMs with proper usage, consistent messaging, and providing available resources to their school users.
From January 26 – February 19, 2021, there were six ClimbHI Bridge School User Trainings conducted for high school educators.

From April 6-20, 2021, five ClimbHI Bridge School User Trainings were conducted for middle/intermediate school educators.

On March 11, 2021, ClimbHI and the OCID ClimbHI Team conducted the first statewide virtual ClimbHI Bridge training for middle/intermediate school PRMs. Approximately 190 educators attended.

On April 27, 2021, a follow-up session was held with high school PRMs to share advanced features of ClimbHI Bridge and to gather information. Improvements will be made to the online portal as needed, and feedback will be utilized in developing plans to scale our efforts.

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Impact on the Department

After the launch of ClimbHI Bridge in December 2020, the steady onboarding of users began in mid-January 2021, and the three-and-a-half months of initial implementation resulted in 1,926 educators gaining access to the online portal, in addition to training materials and support.

Overall number of HIDOE educators: 1,926

ClimbHI Bridge users at the high school, middle/intermediate school, complex, and state levels began to use the network portal as a solution to fill their various work-based learning needs.

Summary for 311 total requests

By Decision

By Category

Guest speakers & teachers: 124 (39.7%)
Job shadowing: 4 (1.3%)
Judges & coaches sought: 49 (15.7%)
Mentorships: 8 (2.6%)
Project-based learning: 11 (3.5%)
Internships and apprenticeships: 16 (5.1%)
Site visits and other exposure events: 39 (12.5%)
Career fair participation and job readiness activities: 61 (19.6%)
By the end of SY2020-2021, the goal to connect educators with businesses was an overall success; approximately 12,000 students and 716 educators benefited from the expertise and 1,233 in-kind hours generously provided by members of the business community.

![Accepted Event Summary]

- Student engagement: 11862
- Educator engagement: 716
- Total In-Kind Hours: 1233
- Total Other In-Kind Value: $ 660

Next Steps

On March 18, 2021, a DOE memo announced the third phase of the ClimbHI Bridge implementation: onboarding of elementary schools. Principals were asked to submit their PRM information and the statewide PRM training for elementary schools will occur in August 2021, with scheduled district school user training sessions to follow.

ClimbHI is leading efforts to improve communication and data collection efforts across the Department, intermediaries and all relevant entities to drive increased efficiencies with the business community through the portal, such as a proactive request/calendar tool. The Department is establishing internal standard operating procedures so the student-facing channel on ClimbHI Bridge can be rolled out in the future.

Resources: