



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII¹
KAPĪOLANI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Kapiolani Service & Sustainability Learning:
Voting Action Plan**

DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

2024

Prepared By
Jason Nichols

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I. Executive Summary

The 'Democratic Engagement Voting Action Plan' seeks to increase voting participation by increasing voter registration, and voter turnout in the Kapiolani Community College Campus.

Brought to light due to the imminent Presidential Election in October 2024, through the *ALL IN Democracy Challenge*. The identified issue of waning voter turnout, voter registration of young adults and students in particular, makes Kapiolani Community College- known for it's high enrollment of the aforementioned, an opportune location for improving voting participation.

This document shall serve as the central, preliminary document that will: 1.) identify the issues at hand by analyzing relevant data, 2.) State the Leadership, roles, and responsibilities, 3.) Analyze relevant solutions and proposals, 4.) State the timeline in which this should take place, and finally 5.) Describe the results that should be achieved.

It should be noted that those involved in these efforts, as it relates to the participants of Kapiolani Community College, should take no political suggestions, stances, or biases in any way that could alter a voters decision.

II. Leadership

The Democratic Engagement Voting Action Plan shall be led by Kapiolani Community College's Office of Service & Sustainability Learning. Leading the office is Denise Pierson, who is the main point of contact for all administrative procedures. Student Assistant, Jason Nichols, shall also be a secondary contact for all things related to this Voting Action Plan; he will take primary responsibility for the handling of this Voting Action Plan following the approval of Denise Pierson and by extension, the Office of Service & Sustainability Learning.

Other campus parties interested in participating will be given an equal chance of having a representative stand on what will be called the "Democratic Action Committee". Eligible Parties refers to any Kapiolani Community College student, faculty, staff.

Students eager to participate shall hold the minimum requirements of:

- 2.0 GPA
- Enrolled in at least 1 class from KCC
- Able to commit to 6 hours a semester

All representatives of the Democratic Action Committee will be given the chance to vote on all matters relating to the meetings of the Democratic Action Committee. Only decisions with approval of at least 3/5s shall be allowed to continue.

III. Identifying Issues & Context

1.) Statistics of Hawaii's Elections & Ages

The State of Hawaii faces a voter turnout disparity much larger than the total possible voters who are registered. According to the Hawaii Office of Elections, in 2022, only 48.7% of registered voters actually voted.

The following data, from the Office of Elections, describes this very trend over the past 3 previous elections.

| Year | Reg. Voters | Voter Turnout | % |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 2018 | 741,007 | 286,180 | 38.6% |
| 2020 | 795,248 | 407,190 | 51.2% |
| 2022 | 853,874 | 340,159 | 39.8% |

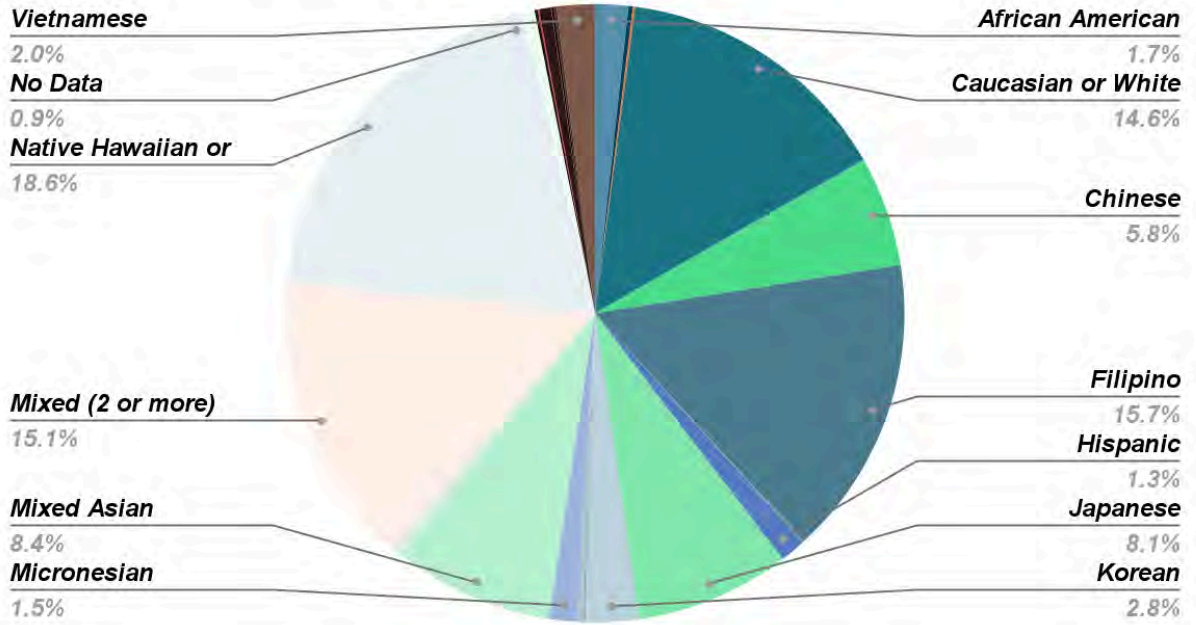
This issue becomes even more apparent when looking at the young adult demographic (18-24). Data from the US Census shows that in Hawaii in 2022, ages 18-24 had the least voter turnout out of all cohorts of ages, totaling only 27,000 of the 509,000 who voted. The next nearest cohort, ages (25-34), more than doubled their turnout, with 56,000 who voted.

2.) Kapiolani Community College's Demographics

Kapiolani Community College Student Demographics depicts a diverse campus population with many different ethnicities and races, especially among a younger demographic.

The following chart (1A) shows the following general demographics of Kapiolani Community College students, per UH Systems demographic information of the nearest completed semester (Spring 2024).

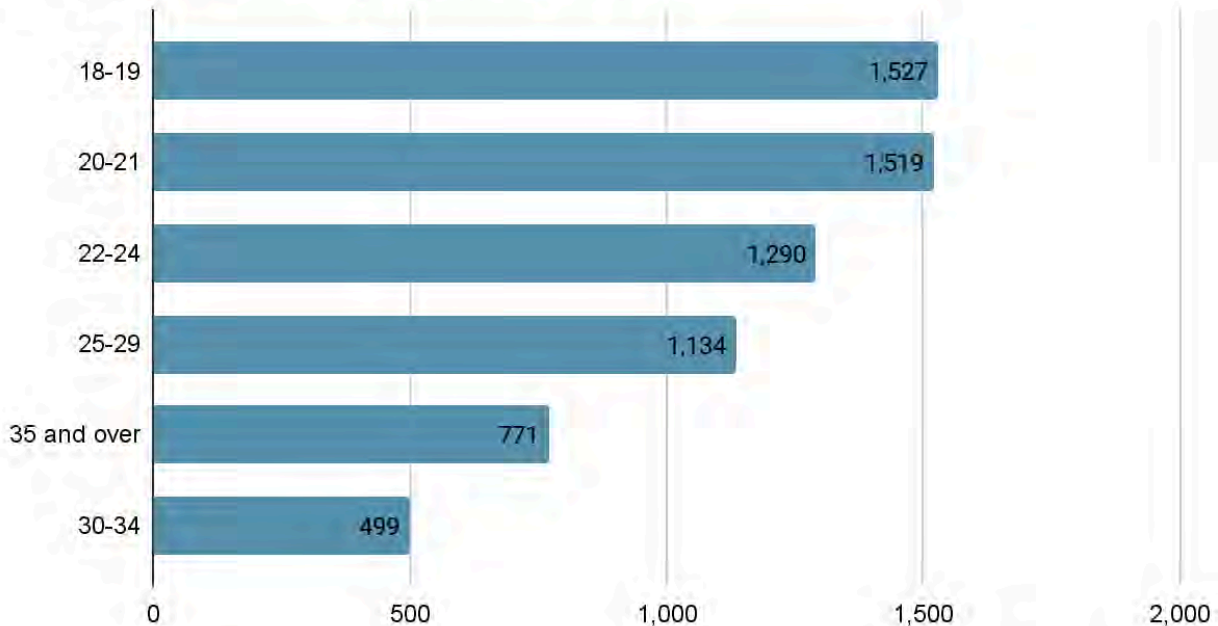
1.A) Ethnicities & Race Characteristics



Note - only races/ethnicities with representation of 0.9% or higher are included, not all are included in the chart.

The following chart (1.B), gives a general description of the age cohorts that represent Kapiolani Community College student

1.B) Age Cohorts (in years old)



Note - Per collegefactual.com, date not listed

3.) How This Relates

The aforementioned data serve to support the notion that Kapiolani Community College has the present opportunity to support and provide encouragement to issues of voter participation.

In a nationwide effort, as led by organizations such as 'ALL IN VOTING', college campuses far and wide are participating in similar initiatives to bolster their surrounding communities democratic participation and encourage civic responsibility.

The following sections of this document shall address goals of this "Democratic Engagement Action Plan" should it continue.

IV. Short & Long Term Goals

The overall objective shall be to increase the voter participation of Kapiolani Community College students through democratic engagement.

The long term goals shall be: steadily increase the number of registered voters, provide Kapiolani Community College as a ballot-drop off location, create a team dedicated to “democratic engagement” on Kapiolani Community College, have recurring voter registration drives, and make Kapiolani Community College an appealing location for local politicians/candidates to use as forum host.

The short term goals shall be: To create the foundation for the “democratic” engagement committee, lay the groundwork for continued participation in “voter issues”, build connections with the Hawaii Office of Elections, work with Kapiolani Community College Administrators to host events, post political informative material, hold registration drives, work with UH IT to have a portion of the official Kapiolani Community College website, develop relationships with campus RIOS and Student Organizations, and build funding.

This document serves as the first measures of recognizing and analyzing current issues, identifying characteristics, challenges and opportunities Kapiolani Community College may face, and offer the foundation for future solutions and improvements to ‘Voter Participation’.

All goals shall be met with appropriate measures that align with the concerns and considerations of Kapiolani Community College administrators, the Office of Service & Sustainability Learning, and all vested members/representatives of the “Democratic Engagement Committee”. Timely progress shall be made each working semester where the “Democratic Engagement Committee” will recognize positive efforts towards the common goal, and will adjust all committee gatherings if needed, in response to progress or lack thereof.

V. Strategies

The “Democratic Engagement Committee” shall recognize the most pertinent goals and objectives of the “Voter Action Plan” and will list them in regard to most pertinent to least. From there, the committee will deliberate and identify strategies needed to achieve the goals and objectives at stake.

The following shall serve as a suggestion to the process all strategies shall follow:

- MADE AWARE - Proposal made shall be notified to all members of the of the “Democratic Engagement Committee”
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Then, all shall acknowledge the proposal.
- ALTERATIONS IF ANY - All shall have the opportunity to participate in constructive discourse over the proposal at hand.
- ALTERATIONS MADE - All alterations shall be made to the proposed proposal and be ratified only by a majority vote of the committee.
- DECISION - All committee members shall vote on the proposal at hand, it shall only pass with a 3/4ths majority.

These strategies shall always be made with acknowledgement to the resources provided by all parties involved, the adherence to Kapiolani Community College policies, and proper diligence to administration and all necessary prerequisites being met before hand.

VI. Commitment & Timeline

I. Commitment

The commitment to the “Democratic Engagement Committee” and the “Voter Action Plan”, shall be made with prior acknowledgement to the committee required by an individual over the course of a semester, given the ongoing events of the times. In times of an election, or important democratic event, one should expect to committee more time per semester than a semester without an upcoming election or democratic event.

Otherwise, the Democratic Engagement Committee shall meet an amount deemed necessary by the committee with notice of expected number of meetings given at the beginning of each semester. It is the responsibility of the committee to ensure all committee members are aware of the commitment prior to joining, or the start of the semester, whichever is sooner.

Depending on the position of the committee member, one can expect more or less of a time commitment depending on the position held. For example, the Chair can expect a higher workload than the secretary.

The “Voter Action Plan” shall be initiated by the Office of Service & Sustainability Learning, and be held as the primary party responsible for inquiries, issues, and concerns regarding the “Voter Action Plan”, or “Democratic Engagement Committee”.

II. Committee Roles & Responsibilities

The Democratic Engagement Committee shall be composed of at least one faculty/staff member, and four students in good standing at any given time.

- The staff/faculty member shall serve as the ‘Committee Advisor’, who will provide and handle administrative support to the committee in their endeavors on campus and with other organizations.
- The four students shall each take separate roles within the committee to better organize responsibilities and roles. The roles are as follows:

- 1.) The Chair (President) - Primarily responsible for the handling of campus affairs, delegates projects, coordinates events, and ensures goals are met.
 - 2.) The Vice-Chair (Vice President) - Shall assist the Chair in his/her efforts in increasing the voter participation.
 - 3.) Treasurer - Shall be responsible for the management of committee funds, fundraising, inventory of supplies, and delegation of supplies/materials.
 - 4.) Secretary - Shall be responsible as the point of contact for civic affairs, correspondence and outreach, and handling of meeting minutes of all meetings.
- Any other students, if the case that all above mentioned positions are filled, can assume a “Chairperson” role, where they can help fill in any necessary roles/responsibilities in the pursuit towards increasing voter participation.

III. Timeline

The timeline of efforts made towards increasing voter participation in regard to each major election, whether national or state level, shall be made with progress deemed satisfactory by the Democratic Engagement Committee. “Satisfactory progress” is defined as “any forward progress in the goals set forth by the committee made with proper effort with respect to the entire timeline and full completion of the project at hand”.

All passed proposals shall come with an “ideal timeline” which will detail the schedule all components of the proposal should be completed by.

For larger proposals, those that include a combination of at least 2 or more proposals, there shall be prioritization in completing large proposals first. There shall also be more strict regulation of the timeline of completion, ensuring that the proposed project gets finished in a reasonable time.

In regards to the entire mission: increasing voter participation at Kapiolani Community College, all steps towards this goal shall be made in individual

projects. These projects must first follow proper procedure within the Democratic Engagement Committee as described earlier, in *Strategies* (Page 9).

VII. Proposed Results

The results of all progress made shall look to increase and promote genuine voter participation. As described in the earlier section, *Identifying Issues & Context* (Page 5), voter participation can be tracked in two key ways that are most important to our goals: 1.) Voter registration, 2.) Voter turnout. Increasing each of these shall be the highest priority of the Democratic Engagement Committee, and shall only be made with genuine regard for the voter at hand - no attempts shall be made to force, coerce, pressure, incentivize anyone 1.) register to vote, or 2.) vote. These wrongful attempts define “ingenuine regard” for the voter/potential voter.

While other democratic issues may be tackled, such as “voter awareness” for example, they are to only be handled in times where the primary voter participation (registration/turnout) is not.

To quantify the results, relying on State of Hawaii data is not indicative of Kapiolani Community College. Quantifying the progress shall be made with comparison of before and after data of Kapiolani Community College and its students, staff, and faculty only. Proper surveying shall be conducted in two year cycles. It is these surveys that will be utilized for comparison, and tracking of results.

Ideal progress will be identified by the Democratic Engagement Committee upon overview of the survey. Analysis on the survey shall be conducted, written, and documented. This analysis will include, but is not limited to: 1.) Current state of voter participation, 2.) Previous voter participation strategies, 3.) Future implementation of voter participation strategies, and 4.) Ideal progress.