Wai‘anae High School
Vision & Mission

Our mission is to build a collaborative learning environment and culture that emphasizes: responsibility, innovation, complex thinking, effective communication and excellence.

Vision

We, as Seariders of Wai‘anae High School, envision a 21st century community of learners empowered to succeed in a global society.

School Design:
Increasing Rigor, Creating Relevance, Building Relationships, and Engaging Community

We believe that our school belongs to our community and that our responsibility rests in supporting students to engage in our community, make a difference, and participate in ways that make our community an even better place to live. We have built a strong MTSS system, provide a full range of Tier 1, 2 & 3 supports, and expect that all staff will support students to succeed. We are in the process of developing two school-wide thematic units that address water as the source of health of our community and a healthy lifestyle to combat our most debilitating public health concern, diabetes. Sustaining the community through a healthy environment and an engaged citizenry is the goal of WHS through its Comprehensive Education model.

Core Values & Mindset

The work of revising the school's current vision/mission must include and reflect our community's dreams for their children. Staff has brainstormed, discussed and gone through multiple drafts of the statement in an ongoing effort to truly represent Wai‘anae’s aspirations for itself into the future. Add in HA, connection to

Curriculum & Learning

Our CTE program is strong and we have a high rate of completers. There are strong internship components that serve as examples for other pathways. All courses have common Curriculum Maps, Pacing Guides, Formative Assessments, and a Final Exam. This allows us to problem-solve more effectively and quickly to intervene and improve. The school's Standards-based Grading system gives students active responsibility for their own learning. Each week, the administrators, counselors, coaches and the Student Services Coordinators meet to discuss students who are struggling. The goal is to use the student's strengths and interests to leverage his or her challenges. Teachers report students who need support and our data systems provide names also. Parents also request support for their child. Students are tracked systematically and interventions are applied. We offer tutoring, SEL curricula, and individual as well as group counseling.
Student Learning Product & Voice
A team of academic coaches support AVID implementation and standards-based grading/instruction. Electives and Early College are available from 9th-12th grades. A Ho’ike is held each year for students to demonstrate their learning. Students travel to national CTE competitions in addition to participating in the Hawaii competition. A common Business/Entrepreneur Curriculum for all grade 9-12 CTE classes is being developed which will connect the scope of product and service development to real world challenges and opportunities. There are also multiple opportunities for students to explore the pathways and take college courses. CBI (certificate-route) students have workplace readiness curricula in place with hands-on work experience available on campus and are able to participate in classes of their choice such as Shop, Art, or Fashion Design.

What students say:
- People are not afraid to say what they think
- People now talk but don't take action & can solve problems
- There is rubbish everywhere-on the beaches and parks- but not at our school
- There are mentally ill people all around us and it can be scary
- We are not challenged enough in school and may not be ready for college
- We want more AP classes
- We like having electives, especially in 9th grade
- We have lots of friends at school and clubs or sports to join
- Vaping is a problem here
- We can take college classes

Infrastructure
CTE learning spaces reflect real-world experiences
Wai’anae High School is home to innovative student learning programs such as Searider Productions (video and marketing products production) and the Marine Science Learning Center (an aquaculture farm with a salt water well that grows limu). A culture-based Alternative Learning Center will also share the campus and provide its students with opportunities to learn and make a difference in their community as they prepare for college or a career. The campus also boasts culinary programs in certified kitchens, an agriculture program on a certified organic farm, and a Fashion Design pathway.

Principal’s Statement
Ho’omau! Persevere!
Wai’anae is home to the largest population of Hawaiians in the world and is a place where we respect the land that nurtures us. Our school belongs to our community: we strive to learn from our history, to prepare for our future, and to build on our strengths as a community. Our students welcomed Hokulē‘a in 2018, cleaned many parks, taught hundreds of elementary students, testified at the Legislature, visited Japan to study tsunami awareness, built picnic tables for our schools, and more. We are proud to be Seariders!