

# Lōkahi in Action: Faculty-Driven Change in Special Education Teacher Preparation



College of Education, Special Education Department

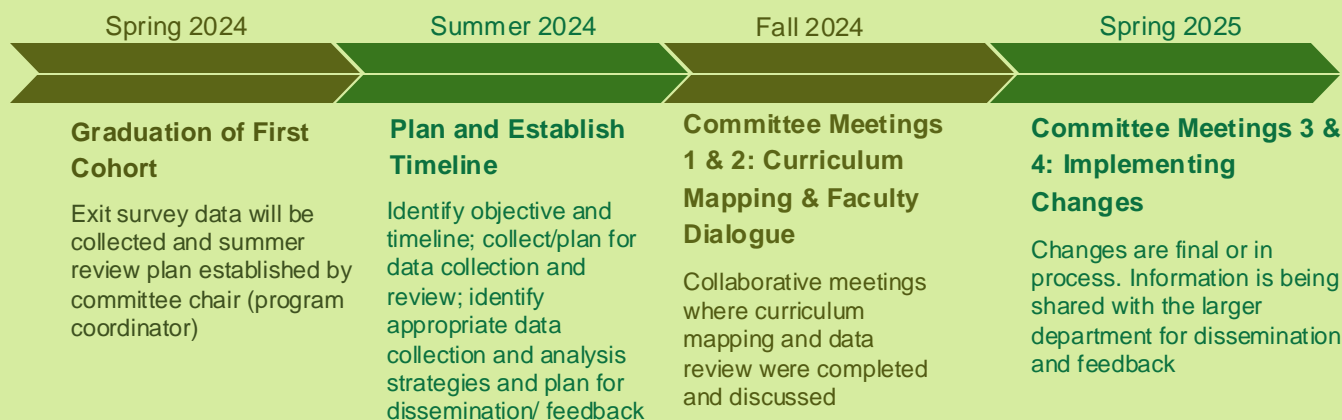
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## Background

The Bachelors of Special Education Program (BEEd in SPED) is a statewide, two-year special education program, launched in Fall 2022, which integrates a teacher preparation track into the final years of a four-year degree. Graduates earn both their degree and a teaching license in Hawai'i. Candidates choose between teaching students with mild to moderate support needs (grades 6-12) or extensive support needs across PK-12 (PK-3, K-6, or 6-12 grade bands). They gain hands-on field experience with a licensed cooperating teacher.

## Objective & Timeline

After the inaugural cohort graduation, we will work to identify pukas (areas of need) in the BEEd program around our candidates' **knowledge and application** of **core competencies** and student needs at the student, content, and program levels to better the program for future cohorts.



## Facilitating Processes

01	Engaged Committee Development	-Select involved faculty members -Identify content experts -Leverage existing practice
02	Clear Goal, Support, & Collaboration	-Identified facilitator -Support from Department Chair -Collaborative, working committee meetings
03	Dissemination & Iterative Conversations	-Buy-in and continued motivation -Standard and routine practice -Larger faculty sharing and feedback

## Findings

Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of incoming students are established educational assistants</li> <li>Increased focus on candidate dispositions</li> <li>Program adjustments needed to improve manageability</li> </ul>
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redundant content needs streamlining across courses</li> <li>Specific skill areas not emphasized enough in introductory classes</li> <li>Program changes require dispersion not removal</li> </ul>
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to refine recruitment strategies and define target population</li> <li>Low enrollment is causing class size issues</li> <li>Address lack of alignment with some accreditation standards</li> </ul>

## Outcomes

1. Program Learning Outcomes have been updated; needs refinement now given the new administration (Program)
2. Changes to first semester core syllabi established, including field syllabi (Student)
3. Continued curriculum revision with expansion to larger pool for track specific classes (Content)
4. In process of submitting program documents to drop one course from program completion (Student)
5. Advocating for students enrolled in existing classes to reduce BEd specific classes (Program)
6. Continue working with recruitment team on recruitment efforts (Program)