

Purpose and Goal

To host Hawai'i START as a whole campus and pay for it in an equitable way

Problem statement

In the past, colleges have sent volunteer advisors and have paid for their staff to attend, with a small stipend from Office of Student Orientation to supplement. These advisors were then responsible for advising all student who attended, even those outside of their college. This meant that, in practice, the bulk of the travel for this event was paid for by Office of Student Orientation and a few select colleges.

Proposal

Each college contributes \$184 per student from their college who is signed up for Hawai'i START to Office of Student Orientation, which will then be redistributed to pay for the travel of the selected advisors who attend. This number is based off of paying base fees for air, hotel, and food for 7 advisors to advise all students on site and then dividing by last year's total attendance at Hawai'i START. This assumes a modest \$2150 per person for travel for 4 days. This amount per student will be recalculated annually for inflation and changes to program attendance.

Why Hawai'i START

Hawai'i START is a long-standing tradition dating back to its inception in 1996. While the initial purpose may have been practical, helping students who could not travel to Corvallis to register for classes, the identity and goals of this program have grown over the years. For students from Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands, leaving their family to attend school on the mainland is a bigger deal than for students from Portland or even California due to the fact that there is no easy/quick way home if needed. Additionally, the culture of Hawai'i is such that families are deeply valued and the community rallies to support students departing for school. In 2023, 1/3 of all students attending Hawai'i START considered themselves Native Hawaiian or multiracial, further emphasizing the need for culturally appropriate support during their orientation. Finally, Admissions relies on this first START session to confirm enrollment for Hawai'i students, helping them take that last step toward becoming a Beaver. For all of these reasons and more, Hawai'i START is an important program that continues a tradition and provides appropriate support for our incoming students of color at a critical time in their transition.

Support for reducing costs

In support of reducing costs, Office of Student Orientation will seek block hotel prices and coordinate flights wherever possible to minimize costs to all, as well as coordinate ride sharing to airports and around the island. Additionally, Office of Student Orientation will pay for dinner the night before START, as well as lunch during the event.