

**KEA`AU MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL at
KEA`AU YOUTH BUSINESS CENTER (www.kybc808.com)**

Description:

- Established in 2005 by an MOA between UH and the DOE for a partnership between Hawai`i Community College and Kea`au High School as the first Middle College entity in the state replicating successful examples nationally.
- Includes a community partner, Bay Clinic, Inc. which received a federal grant to renovate a 2,800 square foot space in the Kea`au Town Center to create the Kea`au Youth Business Center (KYBC) an innovative "*high technology center*" which has a state-of-the-art multimedia lab, sound recording studio, and a certified mobile kitchen trailer.
- Takes high school seniors at-risk who have ability but are disengaged from the traditional high school environment into an innovative alternative education environment to graduate & to earn dual credit—5 high school credits (English, Environmental Science, Food Science, and 2 Electives) and 12 college credits (6 credits each semester). Students are referred by high school counselors. A typical Middle College student has had to deal with major personal challenges early in life--the death of a parent, serious illness of a parent, being a young parent, foster child, learning disability, etc.
- Delivers a hands-on, interdisciplinary curriculum stressing project-based learning, community engagement, entrepreneurial training, and capstone assessment activities which integrate STEM curriculum and Digital Arts skill building.
- Offers opportunities to youth who typically are overlooked and “underchallenged” in the current public school system. By excavating their dormant talents, the program has literally “saved lives” and tapped into a clientele who had not seriously looked at higher education as a viable option for themselves until entering Middle College.
- By increasing the achievement motivation, skills and productivity of youth in rural low-income communities, it increases the social capital and economic development capacity of these communities and workforce development.

Benchmarks: (for four KMCHS cohorts):

- Graduated 90% of participants (100% in the last two years), increased Kea`au High School’s graduation rate by 10% and college going rate by 7%; Typically about 20 students are accepted each academic year.
- Increased the average junior year GPA (traditional HS) from 1.9 to 2.5 in MC;

- At least 50% of each cohort have been Hawaiian students;
- 80% of the high school graduates have entered higher education in majors such as Liberal Arts, Nursing, Administration of Justice, Culinary Arts, Electricity, and Auto Mechanics;

Awards:

- 1) 2007 HawCC Innovation Award
- 2) 2008 UHCC system-wide Wo Community Building Award
- 3) 2008 “What is a Pono School” Video Award, High School Category
Sponsored by the HI Civil Rights Commission and PBS (*see video on Youtube by searching kybc808 – “Ho`okele 2008”*).