

CORE 1+1 Abstract: Paraprofessionals Working with Low Incidence Populations in Hawai'i and the Pacific, including Students with Limited English Proficiency

Center On Responsive Education (CORE) 1+1 is a collaborative project involving the University of Hawaii-Kapiolani Community College, Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific (GURC), University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), and the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE). **CORE 1+1** is designed to address a long-standing and serious shortage of educational interpreters and special education paraprofessionals working with students in Hawaii and the Pacific who are deaf/hard of hearing or who have other low incidence disabilities. The project is designed to prepare paraprofessionals with specialized skills to work with students who have a single disability or a combination of disabilities and who may also have limited English proficiency (LEP). Project students will complete an associate degree in one of four areas--special education, deaf education, educational interpreting or English as a second language--**plus** complete a 12-credit certificate program in low incidence disabilities, that will include coursework in additional disability areas, English as a second language, universally-designed instruction, assistive technology, and/or transitional services.

CORE 1 + 1 goals include-- **#1:** Ensure that CORE curricula reflects best practice and is educationally, culturally, and linguistically responsive to individual and group needs; **#2:** Reduce the critical shortage of highly qualified and specially prepared paraprofessionals to work with students with a variety of low incidence disabilities; **#3:** Prepare paraprofessionals in the effective use of research-based responsive instructional strategies to enhance the academic performance of students with a single low incidence disability or combination of disabilities, and who may have LEP; and **#4:** Increase student retention and provide support to CORE 1 +1 students while in the project and as they begin their employment as paraprofessionals.

CORE 1+1 will fund and prepare a total of 50 paraprofessionals (2 cohorts of 25 students) who represent the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity found in Hawai'i and the Pacific. Project graduates will be employed by the local DOEs and serve the diverse needs of Hawai'i and Pacific students with low incidence disabilities.