

Implementation of Physics First Program at Kamehameha Schools (PASE)

Funding Agency:

Kamehameha Schools, Policy
Analysis & Systems Evaluation
Department (PASE)

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Evaluation:

3 Years
\$75,000

Ohio's Evaluation and Assessment Center for Mathematics and Science Education (E & A Center) used a semi-experimental design to assess the effect of teaching physics in the ninth grade on student attitudes, interests, and achievement in science. The project was conducted at the Hawai'i campus of Kamehameha Schools on the Island of Hawai'i. The Kamehameha School in Maui served as the control site. The private schools of Kamehameha enroll students of Hawai'ian descent.

The E & A Center collected extensive quantitative and qualitative data that measured attitudes, interests, and achievement levels in science. Senior personnel from the E & A Center observed classes in physics, chemistry, and biology on the two campuses (Maui and Hawai'i). They interviewed students and teachers involved in the project and met with administrators at both school sites and at PASE. In addition, the E & A Center personnel trained PASE and University of Hawai'i faculty to implement the Third International Mathematics and Science Survey's (TIMSS) performance tasks as part of student achievement measures.

Due to restrictions, the evaluation methods could not be implemented as originally intended. Therefore, the project's ability to come up with any conclusive findings was lost.

This project allowed for the E & A Center to work on its long range communications, involve culturally relevant interpretations, and build a multi-institutional research team.