

**PROPOSAL REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED
CURRICULUM (“S-DESIGNATION”)**

**Submitted to the Leeward CC Faculty Senate
by the Sustainability and Curriculum Subcommittee of
the Leeward CC Sustainability Committee**

October 17, 2018

The Sustainability and Curriculum Subcommittee proposes that the Faculty Senate allow it to:

- formulate the procedures and standards for using the Sustainability Focused Banner attribute code (SF) for classes at Leeward CC;
- act as a council of peers to solicit and review courses whose instructors are seeking the designation;
- provide a list of classes which demonstrate a primary and explicit focus on sustainability and thus meet the required S-Designation standards to the appropriate Faculty Senate committee for approval.

FAQs about the S-Designation

What is the S-Designation?

This designation would make it easier for students to identify classes that would enhance their knowledge of sustainability. Students are often passionate about sustainability-related topics. At other UHCC campuses, Sustainability Focused courses have been combined to create an interdisciplinary Academic Subject Certificate.

What are the two types of S-Designation?

These designations could be used for individual sections (CRN level) or at the course level:

1. S-Focused (SF) courses have a thematic, primary, explicit focus on sustainability as an integrated concept having social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Course content is **at least 60%** focused on Sustainability.
2. S-Related (SR) courses are primarily focused on a topic other than sustainability, but incorporate a unit or module on sustainability or a sustainability challenge. A minimum of 10% of course content is focused on Sustainability.
(S-Related courses may evolve into S-Focused courses.)

Is the S-Designation being forced on faculty?

No. [The University of Hawai'i Executive Policy on Sustainability, EP 4.202](#) was a grassroots creation. Students, faculty, and staff gathered at the First Annual Hawai'i Sustainability in Higher Education Summit at UH-West O'ahu, April 11-12, 2013 and drafted a policy. We asked the administration to support and endorse it. President Lassner signed the policy at the Third Annual Hawai'i Sustainability in Higher Education Summit at UH-Mānoa in February 2015.

Who wants it?

- Students surveyed have indicated an interest in taking courses with the S-Designation. We are administering a [survey](#) of students this year; 21 out of 24 students so far have answered affirmatively when asked “Would you take an S-Designated course at Leeward CC?” Half of them specified that they would only do so if the S-Designated class counts toward a certificate.
- Faculty have asked about having the S-Designation for their classes in such fields as Agriculture, Biology, Botany, English, and Geography. Other fields are possible.

- The Administration wants it, as indicated in the University of Hawai'i [Executive Policy EP 4.202](#), System Sustainability, Section III, Item B, Curriculum: “The University will encourage, facilitate and support curriculum development that advances the principles of sustainability and enables cross-campus collaborations that integrate teaching and research with solutions at the campus and community levels.”
- The S-Designation would help Leeward CC to remain competitive with other institutions of higher education.

What use is the S-Designation to students?

- It could be like a minor/concentration. However, students who do not want a concentration in sustainability could still take S-Designated classes. The SF is not being sought as an additional requirement. Thus, students have flexibility.
- It would attract new students who may already be taking S-designated classes elsewhere.

- It would aid in a seamless transition for Leeward CC students who wish to transfer to UH-West O‘ahu for the Bachelor of Applied Science with a concentration in [Sustainable Community Food Systems \(BAS-SCFS\)](#).
- It can enhance career marketability. In the Department of Agriculture, the complaint is that applicants for jobs have a degree that is too broad for the Department’s needs. They need applicants who can show that they have training in agriculture-related programs. Indeed.com currently lists more than 500 sustainability-related internships in environmental engineering alone. Other job announcements (architectural, safety-related, etc.) also include sustainability as a value to employers. The professional organization, [Environmental Science](#), which promotes education and careers in the field, lists sustainability-related internship information and job possibilities with employers that value sustainability. Multiple employers award internships to students (and hire graduates) who have completed courses (and courses' required projects, analyses, and training) focused on sustainability as related to jobs in civil/water-resource/wastewater engineering, environmental

science, architecture, land development, property management, archaeology, GIS systems, and even technical editing/writing and clerical work.

- It also enhances personal financial sustainability. There are lawyers who focus on sustainability. And many of the newly-graduated environmental engineers with a BS/BA make 33% or more than technical editors/writers with MAs.

How is this handled on other campuses in the system?

Campuses in the system handle the S-Designation in various ways:

- Formal Faculty Senate Subcommittee: Hawai'i CC, Honolulu CC, Windward CC, Kapi'olani CC
- Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Subcommittee: Kaua'i CC
- Sustainability & Curriculum Subcommittee of Sustainability Committee: Leeward CC
- A semi-autonomous [Sustainability Focus Designation Subcommittee](#) reports to the Formal Faculty Senate Sustainability Committee: UH-West O'ahu, UH-Hilo.

Would students be required to take an S-Designated course, thereby potentially delaying their graduation?

No. It would be used by instructors of core classes that would attract students interested in sustainability and related careers. Courses receiving the Sustainability Focused Designation meet all of the existing course learning outcomes; they are taught through a thematic lens of sustainability.

Would faculty be required to seek S-Designation for their courses?

No. The Designation is an opt-in process, similar to the WI Designation. Instructors can choose to apply for it.

In the future we envision creating a possible pathway for students to get a certificate in Sustainability, such as the new Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability which is being piloted at Kapi'olani CC this semester (Fall 2018).

Where would the S-Designation appear?

- In a statement in the instructor's syllabus.
- In Banner on the Class Availability Page, as a note similar to the note about textbooks.
- It would not require a change in the course description in Kuali.
- The course title protocol was recommended by system Banner office, and has been reviewed by several campus registrars.

EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF THE S-DESIGNATION

BIOL 124 at Kapi'olani CC:

DB,SF [32161](#) BIOL 124 0 S-Environ. & Ecology 3 [W Kuntz](#) 29 6 0 TR 1045-1200p [ILIAHI](#) 08/20-12
[103](#)

Prerequisite(s): A grade of "C" or higher in ENG 22 or qualification for ENG 100 or qualification for ESL 100.

It is recommended that students also take BIOL 124 Lab course (CRN 32163, Kuntz) but the lab is not required.

The BIOL 124 course fulfills the KapCC and UHM natural science requirement (DB). BIOL 124 examines the relationship between living things, including humans, and their environment. The course introduces major concepts of ecology and relates these concepts to environmental issues. Topics include the structure and function of ecosystems, evolutionary processes, population biology, extinction, sustainability and global climate change. Emphasis is placed on Hawaiian environment and ecology and the diversity of native Hawaiian species.

This BIOL 124 class section (CRN 32161) is S-Focused. Content will concentrate on sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions and/or the class will examine an issue or topic with sustainability as a lens.

S-Related class sections do not fulfill S-Focus requirements for the ASC in Sustainability.

S-Focus class sections can be used for the Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/sustainability>

SF Designation for ECON 130 at Kapi'olani CC:

DS,FY,SF [31744](#) ECON 130 0 S-Principles of Econ/Micro 3 [J Lindo](#) 22 13 1 MW 1045-1200p [OLONA](#) 08
[209](#)

Prerequisite(s): MATH 88; qualification for ENG 100.

This ECON 130 class section (CRN 31744) is Sustainability Focused. Content will concentrate on sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions and/or the class will examine an issue or topic with sustainability as a lens.

S-Related class sections do not fulfill S-Focus requirements for the ASC in Sustainability.
S-Focus class sections can be used for the Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability.

For more information please visit: <https://www.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/sustainability>

This ECON 130 class section (CRN 31744) requires students to complete 15 hours of economics laboratory.

RESERVED SEATING: This ECON 130 class section (CRN 31744) has 3 reserved seats for first-year students, which may appear as open seats. If you receive a "RESERVED - CLOSED" error in MyUH, you are attempting to register for a seat reserved for a first-year student. Please search for an alternate section or register for a seat on the waitlist

OCN 120 at Windward CC

[OCN 120](#) - S-Global Environ Challenge (3) [McCoy](#) 2:30pm to 5:45pm

W

[Hale 'Imiloa 117](#) 1/07-5/10 [60262](#)

[Eposter](#) for Eileen Cain's ENG 100: