

DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN AND RESOURCES ENGINEERING, SOEST, UHM

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 - 2023

01 May 2018

OUR MISSION

- ⚓ Educate top quality ocean and resources engineers to meet the needs of Hawaii, the nation and the engineering profession
- ⚓ Conduct and disseminate research in the field of Ocean and Resources Engineering
- ⚓ Provide service to the State of Hawaii, Pacific Basin and engineering profession through seminars, conferences, consultancy, government advisory committees and professional societies

OUR VISION

Ocean and resources engineering is an interdisciplinary field that brings classical engineering fields to the ocean. Personnel from across the UH campus and the Hawaiian Islands develop and use ocean resources: The scope of activity in Hawaii in ocean and resources engineering extends well beyond our department unit. Our vision is to provide a vibrant, inclusive, central “hub” – an *ORE Ohana* – for education, research, engagement and service to the broad UH and Hawaii engineering communities.

OUR GOALS

Educational Programs

Deliver innovative educational programs that attract and retain first-rate students, support research, and lead to student success

- ⚓ Increase program flexibility and option areas to accommodate the educational objectives of a wide student body, thereby improving student enrollment and retention and improving student preparation for future careers
- ⚓ Increase graduate student enrollment
 - Increase available student support (assistantships and scholarships)
 - Expand internship programs with local engineering firms to provide financial support and facilitate on job training for graduate students
 - Establish and maintain successful 3+2 programs and other programs that attract international students
 - Recruit and retain professional (possibly part-time) MS students
 - Work pro-actively with top student applicants to help them secure scholarships and fellowships
 - Increase cross-fertilization with other units to encourage support and advising of ORE students (e.g. via co-operating faculty membership and activity)

- Establish our reputation as a top ocean and resources engineering program that draws top and self-funded students
- Increase the visibility of our program and actively recruit
- ⚓ Evaluate the potential for establishing an undergraduate program in Ocean Engineering at UHM (in close collaboration with other units in SOEST and CoE)
- ⚓ Increase instructional faculty body numbers back to the critical mass required to teach ORE core courses and administer ORE graduate programs
- ⚓ Encourage and facilitate innovation in teaching and mentoring
- ⚓ Enhance the student experience by initiating and facilitating connections and interactions with the wider ORE-community and beyond
- ⚓ Target funds and programs for educational program development

Research

Enable and empower faculty, researchers and students to reach their full potential for innovation and discovery

- ⚓ Provide the resources and leadership required to free up valuable time for faculty and researchers to focus on solving problems in science and engineering, disseminating results, and securing funds
- ⚓ Provide mentoring for junior faculty and researchers
- ⚓ Emphasize excellence in research as a requirement and expectation
- ⚓ Cultivate an environment that facilitates cross- and trans- disciplinary research initiatives
- ⚓ Expand ORE's body of researchers and cultivate opportunities for visiting scholars

Partnerships

Re-invigorate and build value-added partnerships to serve our community and enhance student success and diversity

- ⚓ Remove barriers to and encourage cross-unit collaboration, teaching and advising (e.g. course cross-listings and program flexibility)
- ⚓ Strengthen connection, communication and collaboration between members of the ORE-Ohana
- ⚓ Maintain and strengthen partnerships with ocean engineering industry in Hawaii
- ⚓ Establish relationships with government agencies that employ trained ocean and resources engineers in Hawaii (e.g. US Navy, US Army Corps of Engineerins, etc.) to better understand their needs and possibly tailor our programs to meet their needs

Climate

Establish an efficient, supportive, healthy work environment that leads to success and empowerment, including a feeling of ownership over ORE's program and membership in the ORE-Ohana

- ⚓ Provide guidance, mentoring and support for junior faculty, visiting scholars, and new hires
- ⚓ Support professional development for faculty, staff and students
- ⚓ Introduce/clarify policies that spell out expectations for members and that protect students, postdocs and junior faculty
- ⚓ Create a culture of care, communication, transparency and collegiality
- ⚓ Raise funds for programs and initiatives aimed at improving climate
- ⚓ Nominate faculty and students for awards and recognition
- ⚓ Engage in team-building events

- ⚓ Recognize, reward and celebrate success
- ⚓ Work with UHM administration to improve support to allow faculty and student to focus on education, research and service
- ⚓ Prioritize and support member health and well-being, including facilitating access to resources and responding efficiently and responsibly to human resource issues
- ⚓ Provide bright, clean, comfortable, well-equipped spaces (including offices and common spaces) that set the stage for activity, collaboration and creativity

Engagement

Provide opportunities for members of the wider ORE-Ohana to participate in, interact with, and learn about ocean and resources engineering projects and activities in Hawaii

- ⚓ Host seminars, symposia, workshops, colloquia that engage the ORE-Ohana
- ⚓ Raise funds for a distinguished lecture series to attract high-profile speakers
- ⚓ Engage in outreach programs
- ⚓ Improve public engagement and visibility (via the ORE website, social media, newsletters, press releases etc.)
- ⚓ Foster networking opportunities, communication and cross-fertilization with other units
- ⚓ Re-connect with and engage ORE alumni

Infrastructure

Repair, improve, leverage and/or acquire facilities essential to support teaching, research and service in ocean and resources engineering

- ⚓ Raise funds and support to fuel improvements
- ⚓ Re-establish the Kilo Nalu Nearshore Observatory to support ORE teaching, research and outreach and to support projects of interest to the wider ORE-Ohana
- ⚓ Improve/establish (shared-use) ocean and resources engineering laboratory facilities
- ⚓ Improve access to and facilities for engineering support
- ⚓ Revamp student and visiting scholar spaces
- ⚓ Establish a central and meeting/open use space for ORE-Ohana and visitors
- ⚓ Establish a mechanism that fosters open use, development and collaboration across the ORE-Ohana for critical infrastructure
- ⚓ Consolidate ORE spaces (faculty, staff and student offices) into one area (current spread over 4 buildings) to facilitate interaction, communication and unit cohesion and to increase efficiency