

2025

## Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC)

<b>Challenge Title</b>	UH Pathfinder AI – Discover My Educational Pathway
<b>Department / Organization</b>	UH ITS
<b>Subject Matter Contact</b>	Garret Yoshimi (for topical questions) and Sean Cleveland (for questions data access – we can provide baseline data at the HACC site as part of the pitch)
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<b>The Challenge</b>	
<b>Describe situation to be solved</b>	The University of Hawaii system includes ten campuses located throughout the state, and offers thousands of educational pathways to degrees and certificates for Hawaii's residents. Choices are often difficult for new students looking to select the "right" educational pathway to best serve their personal goals and career interests – making that "right" choice early on, helps keep students on the best path to graduation and their career choice – aka "my dream job." UH Pathfinder can build on the foundations of the Google Career Dreamer online service that serves up potential dream jobs based on interests, skills and experience (check it out: <a href="https://grow.google/career-dreamer/home/">https://grow.google/career-dreamer/home/</a> ) – UH Pathfinder will serve up your UH educational pathway options to get you on the path to your dream job.
<b>Preconditions</b> <i>(How does it work now)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Multiple options, including search and AI bots provide recommendations for "best fit" careers and jobs based on your interests, skills and experience. Google Career Dreamer is a recently released experimental online service that does a great job of visualizing your options.</li><li>2. The current path to choosing your ideal education pathway mostly depends on experienced educational counselors and word-of-mouth, to select your educational pathway. Sometimes useful, sometimes not – very dependent on who you know and talk to about choices. Many times choices are made based on popular "knowledge" that may not provide the best fit path for your own needs.</li><li>3. Choices will sometimes require a pivot part way down the path, that often increases the time and cost to graduation. Sometimes also creating discouraging moments when having to backtrack in your educational pathway.</li><li>4. Alternative research involves countless hours of browsing through online catalogs, reviews and opinions, and even (so retro) paging through printed institutional course catalogs – yes, some institutions still publish their catalog in traditional forms.</li></ol>

<b>Assumptions/Issues</b> <i>(list any conditions that could impact the solution)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AI has the capability of digesting extreme volumes of information, and making the connection with your personal interests, skills and experience to help digest the raw information, and provide personalized recommendations as to your ideal educational pathway to your dream job.</li> <li>2. Additional interactions with the AI tool may also help to refine the recommendations, and help put you on your personal pathway to success.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Approach</b> <i>(how is situation currently being handled)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public web sites</li> <li>2. "Paper" catalogs (e.g., printable pdf versions)</li> <li>3. Public searches</li> <li>4. Ask-a-friend</li> </ol>
<b>Users</b> <i>(Who would use the application - employees or constituents or both? How many users would there be?)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Potential UH students – traditional and non-traditional (including working adults already in careers, but looking for a change or to enhance their career path)</li> <li>2. Existing UH students interested in refining their career and pathway choices</li> </ol>
<b>Business Rules</b>	<p>Google Career Dreamer is a sample platform that helps collect the inputs and provide recommendations for careers. The UH Pathfinder AI should connect the dots to provide and refine recommendations for UH educational experiences to support your journey to your dream job.</p>
<b>Special Requirements</b>	<p>None</p>
<b>Technical Platforms</b> <i>(in use or desired to be used)</i>	<p>Strong preference for visual user experience (similar to Google Career Dreamer) that supports broad use of the UH Pathfinder AI. Additional use of voice interaction or multiple language translation would be a plus.</p>
<b>Data set to be used or collected</b>	<p>Existing UH catalog data available.</p>
<b>Data set calculations or reporting needs</b>	
<b>Solution Road Map</b>	

<b>Basic Flow</b> <i>(steps of user action/system response)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access online, provide required inputs via a visually appealing interaction (collecting interests, skills, experiences, and desired career track or job title).</li> <li>2. UH Pathfinder AI will engage in a conversation with visual guidance, to help arrive at a recommended UH educational pathway to support your journey to get to your dream job.</li> </ol>
<b>Goal of Solution</b>	Autonomous, VISUALLY engaging conversational AI assistant, to include voice and text, with potential additions including language translation, addition of visual aids
<b>Business Value</b> <i>(potential financial or time savings)</i>	Improve accessibility of UH educational options to engage with potential (and current) students to match with UH available offerings.
<b>Success Scenario</b> <i>(how you know a solution is working)</i>	Utilization measures, logging of questions asked and answered, providing referrals to UH candidate intake/applications, and effective mapping of UH offerings to support students.
<b>To be completed by the HACC Planning Committee</b>	
<b>Community/Industry Data Available</b>	
<b>Potential Community/Industry Co-Sponsors</b>	