

# MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION



## What is Measuring Up?

The purpose of a state report card is to provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. *Measuring Up 2008* is the fifth in a series of biennial report cards.

The report card grades states in six overall performance categories: **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school? **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school? **Affordability:** How affordable is higher education for students and their families? **Completion:** Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner? **Benefits:** What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population? **Learning:** What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?

Grades compare the current performance of each state with the best-performing states, but do not compare with past performance. Key indicators (back page) allow states to compare current performance with past performance.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# Hawaii

## PREPARATION

**C-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Hawaii's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Eighth graders perform very poorly in math, science, reading, and writing. And small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests.
- However, the state is among the top performers in high school completion.

## PARTICIPATION

**D**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly low.
- A very low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.

## AFFORDABILITY

**F**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Higher education has become less affordable for students and their families.

- Poor and working-class families must devote 38% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students is low. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only five cents.

## COMPLETION

**C**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Hawaii's performance in awarding certificates and degrees is only fair compared with other states.

- Forty-six percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years—and this percentage has declined over the decade.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	C-
Participation	D
Affordability	F
Completion	C
Benefits	B-
Learning	I

## WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

## BENEFITS

**B-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, but there are substantial gaps by ethnicity.

- Thirty-two percent of Asians/Pacific Islanders have a bachelor's degree, compared with 43% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$6 billion higher.

## LEARNING

**I**

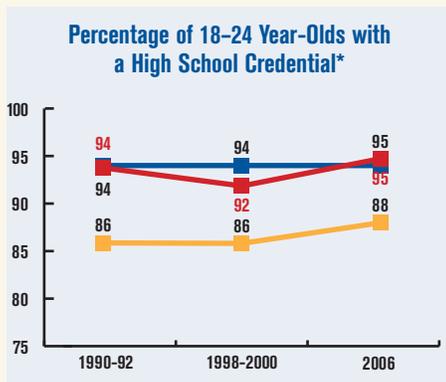
2008 Grade

Like all states, Hawaii receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

This page reflects Hawaii's performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

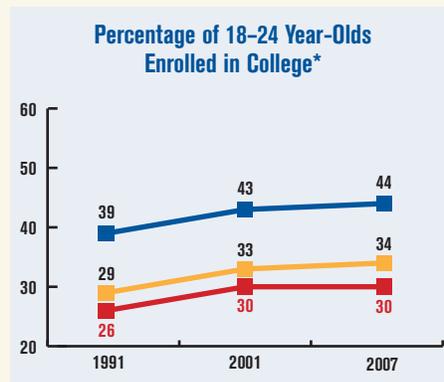
## PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in Hawaii who earn a high school diploma has increased slightly since the early 1990s. Hawaii is a top-performing state in high school completion.

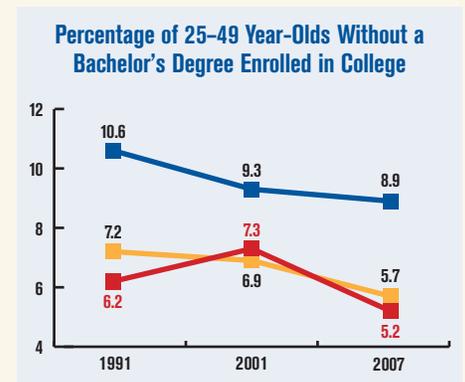


## PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Hawaii has improved since the early 1990s. Compared with the national average and the top states, however, considerably fewer young adults are enrolled in Hawaii (in percentages).

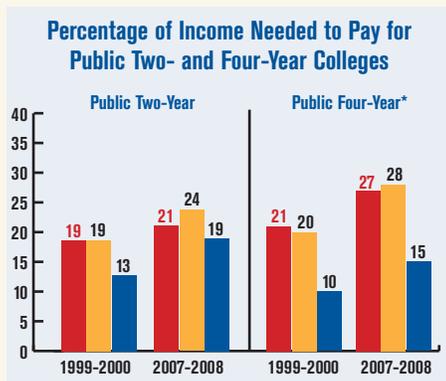


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Hawaii—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Hawaii is slightly below the U.S. average and well below the top states.



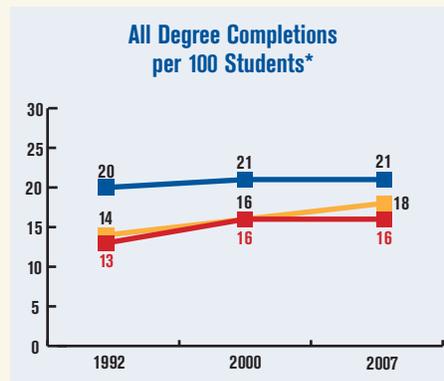
## AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in Hawaii, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states. To attend public four-year colleges, they pay close to the national average, which is more than those in the best states pay.



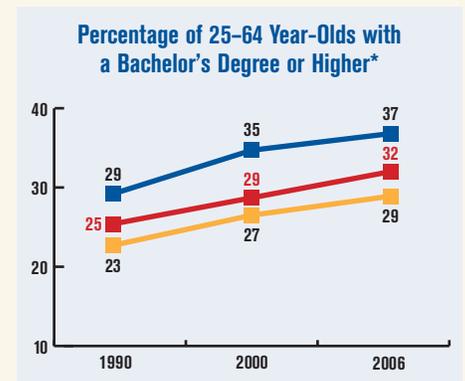
## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Hawaii, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. However, Hawaii is below the U.S. average and the top states on this measure.



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased considerably in Hawaii. The state is above the U.S. average but below the top states.



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

- & ■ = Hawaii
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



152 North Third Street, Suite 705  
 San Jose, California 95112  
**Telephone:** 408.271.2699  
**Fax:** 408.271.2697  
**center@highereducation.org**  
**www.highereducation.org**