UH Hilo responds to workforce needs of the community, state, region and country by broadening participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields. “STEM education is vitally important for our students, communities, and state to fully participate in the global society,” says Chancellor Rose Tseng. “I’m proud to say that UH Hilo is now recognized by the National Science Board as having some of the most innovative and successful STEM opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students. Many of our students conduct scientific research alongside their professors, a unique opportunity rarely offered to undergraduates at other institutions.”

Enrollment reaches a new all-time high for Fall 2009 with 3,974 students. This year’s boost extends a steady, upward period of growth dating back to 1998. Higher retention plays a major role in the fall enrollment increase. Approximately 70 percent of UH Hilo’s students are Hawai‘i residents, while out-of-state students now total 30 percent. International students account for approximately eight percent of the overall student body, hailing from about 40 countries.

Extramural Fund Support for teaching and research, which was at $3.2 million in 1998, reaches $20.1 million in 2009. The research and education generated from these projects benefit the island, state and region with funding from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Education and other granting agencies.
The campus expands to give students the best learning environment possible. New buildings on the horizon: the Science and Technology Building is under construction; Student Services Building will be started next; planning is completed for a permanent College of Hawaiian Language building; and on the horizon is a building for the College of Pharmacy.

Construction begins on the Science and Technology Building, which is expected to be completed by October 2010. The $28 million, 41,560 square-foot structure will house 17,000 square feet of classrooms, labs and research space devoted to the physics, astronomy and chemistry departments. Throughout the building, 26 faculty offices are located, as well as research rooms containing state-of-the-art equipment for the three departments.

UH Hilo hosts a visit from a joint U.S.-China delegation of leading scientists and technical experts on renewable energy from the National Academies of Science and Engineering in both countries. The work of the committee on U.S.-China Cooperation on Electricity from Renewables will assist the national governments and private industries in cooperatively developing and utilizing electricity from renewable energy. The group chose this location to learn more about how the Big Island’s renewable energy projects and research strengthens the economic foundation of the community.

UH Hilo and Windward Community College sign a partnership agreement to facilitate the completion of baccalaureate degrees at UHH by students who begin their post-secondary education at WCC. The partnership mirrors earlier agreements with Kapi'olani Community College and Hawai‘i Community College. The program will improve student access, success, and four-year degree completion.
UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association honors three of its own with Distinguished Alumni Awards, while three others are recognized with Distinguished Service Awards. Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for 2009 are environmental, planning and land use consultant Ron Terry; real estate broker Carol Ginoza-Arikawa; and noted teacher and school administrator Kumu Lehua Veincent. Distinguished Service Award recipients are husband and wife Margaret Ushijima and the late State Senator John Ushijima and Hawai‘i State Representative Clift Tsuji.

Community and town-gown relations are strong, and members of the local community are UH Hilo’s greatest champions. UH Hilo gives back to the community in many ways, including outreach centers: the North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center in Honoka‘a; the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center at Keaukaha; and UH Hilo’s Innovation Center and business incubator in downtown Hilo.

The 3rd annual Ocean Day Hawai‘i is held, hosted by UH Hilo’s Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center and Department of Marine Science, in partnership with UH Sea Grant, Hilo Jaycees, the Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources, the Marine Mammal Response Network, the Hawai‘i Wildlife Society, and Mokupapapa.

AERIAL VIEW OF THE UH Hilo PACIFIC AQUACULTURE AND COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER. PHOTO BY WILLIAM ING.
“We have a commitment to help the whole state with economic stimulus and workforce development for the new century. As the vision of a university town comes to fruition in Hilo, our island will be buffered against economic recessions.”

-Chancellor Rose Tseng

Studies show UH Hilo is an economic engine for the local community; economic impact grows from $100 million in fiscal year 2003-04 to $240.4 million in 2007-08. In 2008, UH Hilo was the second largest employer in East Hawai’i with 610 people directly and another 3,907 jobs indirectly. UH Hilo’s University Park for Science and Technology is an international community of astronomy and other high-tech enterprises that generate about 400 jobs. Investment in park enterprises totals $900 million.

“We have a commitment to help the whole state with economic stimulus and workforce development for the new century,” says Chancellor Tseng. “As the vision of a university town comes to fruition in Hilo, our island will be buffered against economic recessions.”

Economic studies also show UH Hilo College of Pharmacy stimulates the economy statewide. By the time its inaugural class graduates in 2011, the college will stimulate more than $50.2 million per year in economic activity in the state, and support an additional $15 million in earnings by that time.
Students in UH Hilo’s Marine Option Program capture four of the top six awards in the 26th Annual Marine Option Program Student Symposium. The symposium brings together students from MOP campuses across the UH system to make formal presentations of their projects. Best Research Paper went to UH Hilo student Trisann Bambico, who also captured the Anna Toy Ng Memorial scholarship, becoming the fourth person ever to win both honors at the same symposium. The Award for Best Poster ended in a tie between UH Hilo students Jim Moriarty and Rheneka Bean.

Internationalization expands at UH Hilo. There are over 300 international students representing 37 countries enrolled, making the campus a global village. Many students are participating in Study Abroad programs, and UH Hilo’s Center for Global Education and Exchange has active exchange agreements with 65 international universities. UH Hilo students are offered scholarship opportunities to go on exchange. A two-year grant is received from the Institute for Study Abroad Foundation for scholarships, and the Institute for Shipboard Education agrees to provide 10 scholarships per year for the next five years in their Semester at Sea program. “Internationalization in our higher education community is of the utmost importance for our university, our island and our state,” says Chancellor Rose Tseng. “For students to be competitive in an increasingly global workforce, they have to have learning opportunities that will give them a broad world view.”

UH Hilo’s international students generate more than $5 million for the Big Island economy during the 2008-2009 academic year, says an Open Doors 2009 report from the Institute of International Education.
UH Hilo surpasses its goal of raising $15 million by the end of the UH Centennial Campaign. Seventy-two percent of Centennial Campaign donors have never contributed to UH Hilo before.

In 2009, UH Hilo raises nearly $6 million, up from $350,000 in 1998. The $6 million includes an anonymous gift of $1.5 million to support student success. The gift appears to be one of 19 anonymous donations to universities headed by women. At the donor's request, $1 million is designated for financial assistance and scholarships, and an additional $500,000 will be used for selected initiatives of the chancellor. "As an institution committed to access and opportunity, UH Hilo is proud to be recognized with this wonderful vote of confidence in our ability to transform the lives of our students," says Chancellor Tseng. "UH Hilo serves as an economic engine for our state and region, and we will repay this investment many times over as our students graduate and take their place in the professional workforce."

The Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan is unanimously approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. UH Hilo has taken the lead on the plan for the past eight and a half years, working through the Office of Mauna Kea Management. The Kahu Ku Mauna Council and Environment Committee also volunteer many hours to study stewardship issues and provide input to OMKM and the board.

UH Hilo's 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i welcomes thousands of K-12 students throughout the year. Camp 'Imiloa is launched, an After School Program exploring science, math, culture and fun. A grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation assists the center in reaching more of the island's school-aged children. 'Imiloa also becomes an important part of the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, with daily activities to support this important annual Hilo event. At 'Ohana Discovery Days, sponsored by Earl and Doris Bakken, families learn together about optics, astronomy, and wayfinding.
There are two major developments at the UH Hilo Department of Athletics: Dexter Irvin is named Director of Athletics and UH Hilo Athletics launches a new logo (shown as watermark).

The second annual Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, or LSAMP, Student Research Conference is held at UH Hilo. Forty students present research projects, Hokule’a navigator Chad Babayan lectures, and a field trip is conducted to Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. The program is part of the Islands of Opportunity Alliance, a multi-nation program administered at UH Hilo, to increase minority students with baccalaureate and master degrees in science, technology, engineering and math, the so-called STEM fields, the most needed professionals in the global marketplace.

UH Hilo’s Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language is awarded full accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. In other news, a permanent building for the college is approved by the UH Board of Regents.

UH Hilo welcomes 90 students to the College of Pharmacy. The class of 2013 is the college’s third cohort of students. The university also marks a milestone at a Blessing Ceremony in honor of three modular buildings that represent Phase I of the college’s temporary home. The State Legislature approves and Gov. Linda Lingle releases $5.5 million for planning and design of a permanent building for the college.
Students on the UH Hilo computer programming team advance to the finals of the 6th Annual Cyber Security Awareness Week digital war games held at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University Brooklyn campus. The UH Hilo team earns the right to compete for top honors in the world wide competition by finishing in the top ten during the opening round of the Application Security Challenge.

A conference is conducted at UH Hilo’s ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai’i with top scientists working on 3-D scientific visualization, the future of visual data manipulation. It’s a perfect example of UH Hilo and the island providing an ideal place for scientific discussion, inquiry and exploration.

The Thirty Meter Telescope selects Mauna Kea as their preferred site. UH Hilo and its Office of Mauna Kea Management work tirelessly to create the conditions under which both science and culture can thrive on Mauna Kea. If successful, future astronomy development in the state has the potential to bring tremendous benefits to the citizens of Hawai’i.

UH Hilo continues to look to the future. “In order to create a better quality of life, we work hard to foster a knowledge-based economy, so that our island can sustain and keep our graduates,” says Chancellor Tseng. “We are fostering enterprises that will offer opportunities to UH Hilo graduates. And we help the whole state with economic stimulus and workforce development for the new century.”

“There’s much more to be done. We will continue to work on ensuring adequate resources, expanding student housing, completing the new long-range facilities plan.”

-Chancellor Rose Tseng