



Reading Intervention Specialist

2025 Information Session

Monday, September 8, 2025 - 4:30-6:00



UHM SPED
Recruitment
Specialist
Steve Klein

RIS
Program
Coordinator
Dr. Natalie
Haggerty

DOE
Representative
Verna Chinen



RIS Overview

Program, Applications, & Eligibility

SPED Recruitment Specialist: Steve Klein

Program Overview

Program begins: January 2026

Length: 18 months

(Spring 2026 - Summer 2026 - Fall 2026 - Spring 2027)

Delivery: online

- Classes held between 4:30 - 7:00 pm (HST)

Coursework: 19 credits

- 4 content courses (12 cr)
- 3 clinical practicums (7 cr)

Program Website: [Reading Intervention Specialist](#)

Application

Applicants must complete:

- COE Mākālei application (makalei.coe.hawaii.edu)

Applications close October 1, 2025

- UH Manoa application ([UH Manoa](#))

Application

Admission Checklist:

- 1. Submit Video Recorded Responses & Essay**
- 2. Provide two Letters of Recommendation**
- 3. Upload copy of HTSB license in special education**
- 4. Submit official transcripts**

Eligibility Requirements

- **HTSB License in special education**
- **Employed by Hawaii DOE**
- **Minimum GPA: 2.5 GPA**
- **Signed principal agreement and letter of recommendation**

Eligibility Requirements

Additional Priority Considerations for Funding

- ★ Employed in a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school, and/or geographically hard-to-fill school
- ★ Currently in a PreK-6 special education teaching line, or a district resource teacher who provides instructional support to special education teachers

Secondary special education teachers are eligible to apply and be admitted for the Spring 2026 cohort

HIDEO Funding Opportunity

Stipend funding includes:

- Reading Intervention Specialist Program
 - Tuition: 19 credits
 - Practicum materials
 - 1-year Zoom Pro account
 - Center for Effective Reading Instruction Certification
 - Exam Fees for **20 candidates** for the Spring 2026 cohort.
 - Certification Application Fee

Note: Coursework textbooks are not covered and are at the expense of each candidate.

Payback Commitment

If awarded funding, candidates owe 3-year service payback to the HIDEO.

- Sign a 3-year commitment to teach as a full-time special education in a HIDEO school or Public Charter School who provides targeted reading and writing instruction to students with disabilities (SWDs).
- Earn a grade of at least a B- for all RIS courses
- Register each semester in a timely manner
- Apply to sit for IDA, Center for Effective Reading Instruction: KPEERI exam in order to receive the CERI Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist (C-SLDS) or Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist (C-SLDI) certificate within one year of program completion.

Candidates unable to fulfill their years of service will have to pay back the stipend to HIDEO.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I had applied to this program previously? Will I have to reapply?

- A. All previous applicants need to re-submit the following:
 - a. Principal/supervisor commitment form
 - b. UH and Outreach College application for that registration period.
- B. All previous applicants would have the option to re-use previous materials (transcripts, HTSB license, video recorded responses & essay). However, the recommendation may be to redo the video recorded responses & essay in an effort to strengthen previous application submission if needed.



Coursework and Practicum

RIS Program Coordinator

Dr. Natalie Haggerty

Reading Intervention Specialist Program Course Sequence

Semester	Spring I (January - May)	Summer Session I (June - July)	Fall (August - December)	Spring (January - May)
Course	SPED 419 (3 cr) Developing Oral Language and Phonetic Awareness for Diverse Learners	SPED 423 (3 cr) Vocabulary, Comprehension, & Writing Interventions for Diverse Learners	SPED 655 (3 cr) Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention within Tiered Reading Support for Diverse Learners	SPED 656 (3 cr) Advanced Reading Intervention 1: Diagnostic-Prescriptive Reading Intervention
Practicum	None	SPED 628 (2 cr) Evidence-based Practicum: Scripted Curricula	SPED 629.1 (2 cr) Practicum: Individualized Intervention	SPED 629.2 (3 cr) Advanced Practicum: Individualized Intervention
Practicum Hours	None	2 students, Gr. 1 - 3 Each Student, 6 wks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hrs per week • 40 min, 3x week 	1-3 students, Gr. K-12 Each Student, 14 wks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hr, 2x week, or • 45 min, 3x week 	1-3 students, Gr. K-12 Each Student, 14 wks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hr, 2 x week, or • 45 min, 3 x week

Practicum Skill Progression

Fidelity with Evidence-based Curricula

MASTER implementation of scripted evidence-based curricula.



Diagnostic Decision-making

CREATE & IMPLEMENT Structured Literacy Lessons

Use valid and reliable assessments to guide your instruction.



Diagnostic-prescriptive Program Design

ANALYZE STUDENT DATA to Design and Implement intervention programs that address students' targeted areas of need.

Practicum

Semester	Summer Session I (May - June)	Fall (August - December)	Spring (January - May)
Students	<p>2 Tutees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gr. 1-3 ● Tutees provided by the program 	<p>1 - 3 Tutees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gr. K-12, combination of elementary & secondary students ● Tutees provided by the program or the candidate may tutor current classroom students if they meet the student profile requirements (approved by the program) 	
*Hours	<p>Each Student, 6 weeks total for summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ≤ 2 hrs per week ● 3 days per week 	<p>Each Student, 14 weeks each semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 hr, 2x week, or ● 45 min, 3x week ● 30 min, daily 	
Tutoring	Online (Zoom Pro)	Online (Zoom Pro) and/or In-Person	

*Tutoring days and times are determined by the tutor and tutee based on their availability.

Summer 2026 Field

SPED 628

Evidence-based Practicum
Scripted Curricula

May 26 - July 2

Dates/Times TBD Based on Tutor
and Tutee Availability
Online Individual Tutoring
2 Early Elementary Students
3 Days a week, each student
40 minutes per session

Sound Partners Materials

Lesson Book
Tutor Handbook
Implementation Manual
Bob Books: Complete set 1-5
(all tutoring materials provided by
program)

Other Field Requirements

- Computer
- Stable Internet
- Quiet Tutoring Area
- Zoom Video Conferencing Platform (free!)
- GoReact Cloud-based Video
Recording Platform (subscription provided by RIS)



Exam: Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI)

- ★ **WHAT:** KPEERI (Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction)
 - 110 Multiple Choice Questions
 - 2 Hours: Recall (34%) , Application (48%), & Analysis (18%)
- ★ **WHEN:** Recommend completing the Exam immediately after finishing spring coursework, a year after finishing program
- ★ **WHERE:**
 - Testing Facilities: Honolulu, Kapolei, Kahului
 - Live Online Proctoring “At Home”
- ★ **COST:** \$150 + \$15 processing fee
 - Covered by grant funding, however, candidates who do not pass on their initial attempt would need to pay to retake the exam as needed after 30-day waiting period between exams
- ★ **SEMINARS:** Exam Preparation - Spring Semester

Please visit the [Center for Effective Reading Instruction website](#) to learn more about the exam

CERTIFICATION: Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI)

- ★ Bachelor's Degree or Higher
- ★ Minimum 135 Training Hours (Reading Interventionist Program)
- ★ Practicum
 - Passing Score on Practicum Portfolio
- ★ **Certified Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist:** 3 Students w/Heterogeneous Reading Profiles **OR Certified Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist:** 1 Student
 - Elementary & Secondary: 3 different student learner profiles
 - Two Academic Semesters: 24 weeks total
 - 2x week for 60 min or 3x week for 45 minutes
 - 6 Formal Lesson Observations
- ★ Passing Score on KPEERI Exam
- ★ Online Application: \$150 - 1 year certification
- ★ Renewal Process: \$140 - 1 year / \$395 - 3 years
 - Documentation of KPS-Aligned CEU 10 hours (per year of renewal) with approved Provider



Requirements & Service Payback

Contract and Promissory Note

HIDOE: Verna Chinen

Program Completion Requirements

Sign contract/promissory note with HIDOE for stipend payment of tuition for coursework with the following conditions:

- Complete the Reading Intervention Specialist Program within 2 years.
- Pass the Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI) exam, and obtain the CERI Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist (C-SLDS) or Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist (C-SLDI) certificate within one 1 year of the completion of the Reading Intervention Specialist Program.
- At own expense if you need to retake a course or practicum.

Employment Commitment

3 year commitment to work one of the following positions:

- Full-time special education teacher who provides targeted reading and writing instruction to students SWDs.
- Full-time special education complex area/district/state resource teacher who provides professional development and coaching to school level staff regarding reading and writing instruction and/or conducts academic assessments for SWDs.

Employment Commitment

- If not in one of these positions, obtain employment within 1 year from completion of the RIS Program.
- Must accept employment when such a position is offered on the island you reside.
- The start date for the 3 years of service completion will be the date obtained the C-SLDS certificate and working in an approved position.

Repayment Requirements

Must repay the HDOE the stipend received within 3 months if:

- Withdraw or are dismissed from the program.
- Fail to pass the KPEERI and obtain the C-SLDS or C-SLDI certificate within one 1 year of completion of the Reading Intervention Specialist Program.
- Fail to maintain employment for 3 years.
 - Completed less than 1 full school year = 100% repayment
 - Completed 1 full school year = 66% repayment
 - Completed 2 full school years = 33% repayment
 - Completed 3 full school years = Fulfillment of Contract!

Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can an SSC/RTI Coordinator/Inclusion Teacher apply?

- A. Yes, as long as you have a teaching license in special education, it's possible to apply for this program. Because all the practicum needs are provided by the program, it's possible to be in a non-sped teaching line while enrolled in the program coursework. However, all candidates would need to be prepared to move into a full-time special education teaching line after obtaining certification in order to meet the service obligation requirements.

Q. Can a Preschool Special Education teacher apply?

- A. Yes, foundational reading skills would be appropriate and can support preschool special education teachers to be eligible and fulfill service payback requirements.

Q. Can a middle school FSC teacher apply?

- A. Possibly, as long as students being serviced have language & literacy development goals in their IEPs. Although this program is tailored towards students with mild/moderate disabilities, the interventions are more broadly applicable.

Service Payback Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If you're currently a special education teacher, can your years of service payback count while enrolled in the program?

A. No, the three years of service payback will begin after the candidate has earned their certification and is employed in an appropriate position.

Q. Does the three years of service payback need to be consecutive?

A. Yes, three years of service payback need to be consecutive.

Q. What is the total cost of the program if you had to pay the stipend back?

A. Currently, the graduate tuition rate is \$650 per credit. This program is 19 credits, totalling approximately \$12,350.

Other Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can the 19 credits of coursework count towards reclassification?

A. Yes, all coursework is eligible for reclassification. However, all reclassification requests need to receive administrator approval and follow HODOE reclassification guidelines.

Q. What if you took the DOE stipend as part of UH Mānoa's initial licensure program in special education? Can you also take the Reading Interventionist stipend?

A. Yes, however, the years of payback service would be added to the years you would need to pay back as part of the initial licensure program.



How to Apply

Steve Klein (spedinfo@hawaii.edu)

Applications due **October 1, 2025!**

COE Makalei Application

- Apply to the [College of Education](#)
 - Choose “College Certificate” then “Reading Intervention”
- Most Recent Transcripts (Unofficial)
- Copy of HTSB License in SPED
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
 - [Principal/District Supervisor](#)
 - Other

UH Manoa Application

- **Important Note:** *This program is housed in undergraduate admissions within the Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Special Education. Make sure to use the application link provided at the website and do not use the graduate application link.*
- Planned course of study: Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Special Education
- Submit official transcripts to (for all non-UH system):

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Office of Admissions
2600 Campus Road, Room 001
Honolulu, HI 96822-2385

Or official electronic transcripts go to:
manoa.admissions@hawaii.edu

COE Mākālei Application

Go to makalei.coe.hawaii.edu

- Degree: **Certificate**
- Program: **Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Special Education (PBSPED) Currently Licensed Teachers**
- Semester: **Spring 2026**
- Checklist Items:
 - Complete Video Recorded Responses & Essay
 - Provide 2 Letters of Recommendation (one must include the [Principal/Supervisor Form](#))
 - Upload copy of HTSB license
 - Upload unofficial transcripts (verify GPA is 2.5 or higher)

Video Recorded Responses and Essay Tips & Support

- You will need to complete video recorded interviews via VidCruiter
- Video Recorded Responses and Essay
 - 2 minute oral responses
 - 30-minute timed essay
- Tips & demos for navigating this type of platform:
bit.ly/vidcruiterPEA

**Need help with the application?
Contact spedinfo@hawaii.edu**

To be notified of future RIS cohorts:

and to receive RIS program updates,

fill out an inquiry form at:

- bit.ly/spedinfo

Contact Information

- For general program inquiries or assistance with the application:
 - **Steve Klein, spedinfo@hawaii.edu**
- For more specific program details regarding coursework and/or practicum:
 - **Dr. Natalie Haggerty, nhaggert@hawaii.edu**
- For DOE-related inquiries regarding requirements and employment commitment:
 - **Verna Chinen, Verna.Chinen@k12.hi.us**
- For application status or admitted candidate registration questions:
 - **Colleen Licudine, clitudin@hawaii.edu**



Hawai'i State
Department of
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College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

MAHALO!

