What is YouthBuild Waimānalo?

YouthBuild is a federal program of the U.S. Department of Labor to help at-risk youth ages 16-24 years old. Youth must be high school dropouts (or basic skills deficient), homeless, adjudicated, aging out of foster care, or have disabilities. The YouthBuild program is 8 months long, but students can graduate sooner if they complete the requirements or they can take as long as 2 years if more time is needed.

- Students can obtain a G.E.D. and earn $200 each time they pass one of four GED sections (social studies, English, math & science) up to $800 total.

- Students will learn construction skills in the classroom and on a jobsite and will earn construction certifications to help them obtain a job, such as OSHA 10, personal protective equipment tool safety, respirator fitness, scissors lift & forklifts. They will build a one-bedroom, one-bath residential house for homeless or low income families.

- Students will receive counseling and guidance to help them work on their life goals, for example: What are your goals? What do you want to achieve? What kind of work do you like? What kind of education are you interested in?

- Students will receive social service assistance in obtaining medical care, food benefits, housing allowances, bus passes or similar social services for which they qualify.

- Students will learn soft skills such as how to write a resume, look for job, complete a job application, obtain a job and hold a job.

- Students will learn leadership skills and perform public service.

- Students will earn $100 stipend per week if they participate in all activities that week.

- Students will receive help in transitioning out of YouthBuild to a successful life path, such as a job, apprenticeship, vocational training, college, military service or other employment.