



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Jonah Kihoi | Hawaii

With his high school education derailed and his life in shambles, adult education gave Jonah the tools to get his life back together. A native of Kahaluu who moved to the Big Island in 2007, Jonah's addiction to drugs prevented him from getting a high school education. He spent several years in and out of jail on drug charges, finally entering the Big Island Drug Court.

A stipulation of his release was obtaining his high school equivalency diploma. He was enrolled at Waipahu Community School for Adults (WCSA), and upon taking the initial placement test, found that his math scores were an area of weakness. Through his dedication and his math teacher's support, he passed the HiSET® exam in two semesters and earned his high school equivalency diploma.

Jonah has been sober for over three years now. He currently works at Hawaii Planing Mill, supporting his family and paying off the last of his debts, but Jonah has even more plans for the future. He wants to build his own home. He wants to go back to school and learn a new trade. One day, he dreams of taking his children to Disneyland. Because of adult education, he has a job, a wonderful partner, a loving family, a driver's license, and financial stability. Adult education helped Jonah get back all that his drug addiction had allowed him to lose. He plans to continue moving forward with the ambition and drive that adult education helped him to find. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive

888-442-6223 | info@coabe.org | PO Box 14400 Bradenton, FL 34280 |    