

## Hawaii International Conference Paper Abstract

**Title: Nurturing Multicultural Competence in an Early Childhood Graduate**

### **Teacher Licensure program**

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### **Abstract**

#### **Nurturing Multicultural Competence in an Early Childhood Graduate Teacher Licensure program**

In response to the growing need in the United States for teachers, and specifically teachers who are culturally competent, this institution developed an alternative graduate level teacher preparation program around theoretical underpinnings of multicultural competence. In addition to being provided coursework which infused issues of race, social justice, and inequitable educational practices into all of its classes, students participated in a year-long service-learning project at a nearby racially diverse community center and completed their early education student teaching in an inner city in which classrooms were composed almost exclusively of children of color. Assessments of students' multicultural competence were made using pre- and post-tests and revealed a greater knowledge of and comfort level with diversity at the end of the program.