

A CTSO Primer

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are vocational organizations primarily based in high schools and career technology centers. In some cases, on the state level, they are integrated into Departments of Education or incorporated as [non-profit organizations](#). Some states define CTSOs as "integral parts" of the high school and college education programs. There are CTSOs that target post secondary students as well. (ed.gov, OVAE, "About CTSOs") There are five State CTSOs in Hawaii with recognized national affiliation. The following is a brief description, referral website, and the associated career pathway of each of the CTSOs currently operational in Hawaii schools.

[DECA](#)

<http://www.deca.org/>

DECA, a national association of marketing education students, provides teachers and members with educational and leadership development activities to merge with the education classroom instructional program.

1947 – 1st Interstate Conference.

1959-1960 – Official incorporation of Distributive Education Clubs of America. Scope changed to an association of marketing students.

Career Pathway: Business

[Family, Career and Community Leaders of America](#)

<http://www.fcclainc.org/>

Since 1945, FCCLA members have been making a difference in their families, careers and communities by addressing important personal, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. Today over 227,000 members are active in a network of associations in 50 states as well as in the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life -- planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision-making and interpersonal communication -- necessary in the home and workplace.

Founded in 1945.

Career Pathway: Public and Human Services

[Health Occupations Students of America](#)

<http://www.hosa.org/>

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a national vocational student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Occupations Education Division of the American Vocational Association. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health occupations instructors and students to join and be actively involved in the HOE-HOSA Partnership.

Founded in 1976.

Career Pathway: Health Services

[National FFA](#)

<https://www.ffa.org/Pages/default.aspx#>

FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA is a co-curricular organization, requiring it to be integral to a systemic state

federal vocational education Ag program. This designation is a requirement of law and the FFA Constitution and By Laws.

Founded in 1928. Hawaii Chapter Founded in 1929.

Career Pathway: Natural Resources

SkillsUSA

<http://www.skillsusa.org/>

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and professional members who are enrolled in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations.

Founded in 1965 as VICA, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Name changed to SkillsUSA-VICA in 1999.

Name officially shortened to SkillsUSA in 2004.

Career Pathways: Arts and Communication, Industrial Engineering and Technology

CTSOs now and in the future will need to function differently than what was done in the past. Funding and support of CTSOs have changed since the reauthorization of Perkins in 2006 and with Weighted Student Formula changes in the DOE. Following is a CTSO Funding and Support Timeline, showing how these changes have affected how CTSOs operate in Hawaii now.

Hawaii CTSOs are *co-curricular* activities that are directly linked to classroom learning, as opposed to *extracurricular* activities that are outside of academics, such as athletics. (HiDOE ACCN 7/2011, page 15. Go to <http://doeweb2.k12.hi.us/curriculum/acn/ACCN%20Course%20Description%20Guide.pdf>) This is a critical distinction that allows CTSOs to access general funds with the premise that events and activities are connected to instruction. This may also benefit students involved in CTSO career development events (CDEs) that are aligned to appropriate CTE standards as these activities and events may serve as another means of students showing proficiency in standards and achievement. This would assist in bringing rigor and relevance that is standards-based to CTSO events and validating their role as connected to CTE coursework and programs of study.