

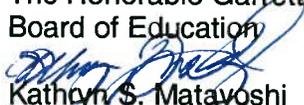


STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 31, 2011

TO: The Honorable Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson
Board of Education

FROM: 
Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Discussion/Recommendation for Board Action on the Closure of
Liliuokalani Elementary School

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Liliuokalani Elementary School be closed.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

June 30, 2011.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE (if different from the effective date)

Not applicable.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation.

Pursuant to Chapter 8-38 (Consolidation of Public Schools), Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Department of Education (Department) initiated a study of the possible consolidation of schools in the Kalani complex because it appeared, based on a comparison of enrollment at the Kalani complex elementary schools with the inventory of classrooms, that the supply of classrooms exceeded the current and projected enrollment by a sufficient margin to indicate that at least one of the existing elementary schools could be closed.

One of the elementary schools, Waialae Elementary, is a conversion charter school. It was included in this study because, although it is a charter school, as a conversion charter school it has a defined attendance area from which it must, like all Department of Education neighborhood schools, accept all students. The Department solicited and incorporated input from school administrators and school community councils in the complex.

The enrollment of the six schools and their current capacities are:

	SY 2010-11 Enrollment	SY 2009-10 Capacity	Enrollment Over or (Under) Capacity
Kahala	425	608	(183)
Liholiho	371	508	(137)
Liliuokalani	99	242	(143)
Waialae	435	616	(181)
Waikiki	436	467	(31)
Wilson	586	535	51
Total	2,352	2,976	(624)

See the consolidation report, page 13 for the enrollment history and enrollment projection for elementary schools in the Kalani complex. Enrollment has been relatively stable, primarily because the schools have attracted students from outside the complex. In SY 2010-11, 49% of the Kalani complex elementary students live outside the complex. The table below shows the percentages for each school of students living (a) within the schools' attendance area, (b) outside the schools' attendance area but within combined attendance area of the six Kalani complex elementary schools, and (c) outside the combined attendance area of the six Kalani complex elementary schools.

	Kahala	Liholiho	Liliuo- kalani	Waialae	Waikiki	Wilson	Total
In school area	29%	53%	63%	38%	43%	34%	39%
In Kalani area but outside school area	14%	6%	5%	14%	3%	18%	12%
Outside Kalani area	57%	41%	32%	48%	54%	48%	49%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

As provided by Chapter 38, the Department held a public hearing on the draft consolidation study on December 13, 2010 at Kalani High School. Public testimony was overwhelmingly supportive of the status quo. The consolidation study, revised following the public hearing, together with written testimony received prior to, at, and subsequent to the public hearing, notes of oral testimony presented at the public hearing, and two petitions presented at the public hearing, (copies of two petitions are available at the DOE school consolidation website <http://consolidation.k12.hi.us/studies/kalani/index.htm>) are all attached to this memorandum.

There are two reasons for the recommendation to close Liliuokalani Elementary. One is to save money. The estimated annual savings in FY 2011-12 are about \$530,000, without considering possible savings from consolidating the special education staff and savings and efficiencies that would result if some Department state and/or district office functions were relocated to the Liliuokalani Elementary School campus if the school were closed (consolidation report, page 12). The second reason is that as the subsidy for small schools is reduced over time, it will be increasingly difficult for students to receive the same level of educational

opportunities that are available at neighboring schools. The table below shows the weighted student formula allocation to the five elementary schools on a per student basis:

	Enrollment incl pre-K		WSF Alloc/Student	
	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
Kahala	428	420	4,389	4,206
Liholiho	376	388	4,637	4,272
Liliuokalani	102	106	8,574	7,725
Waikiki	436	430	4,579	4,424
Wilson	589	583	4,057	4,140

While all six elementary schools in the complex have consistently made adequate yearly progress and are “in good standing – unconditional” under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, overall student achievement has been stronger at the other five schools than it has been at Liliuokalani Elementary, as shown in the tables below:

Reading – percent of students proficient or better

	Spring 2007	Spring 2008	Spring 2009	Spring 2010
Kahala	86	88	85	89
Liholiho	68	70	78	84
Liliuokalani	59	58	61	62
Waialae	72	72	70	76
Waikiki	73	72	72	77
Wilson	72	77	82	80

Mathematics – percent of students proficient or better

	Spring 2007	Spring 2008	Spring 2009	Spring 2010
Kahala	83	82	79	86
Liholiho	54	68	75	79
Liliuokalani	52	58	58	50
Waialae	51	53	54	53
Waikiki	69	68	63	72
Wilson	64	73	77	75

There is capacity at Liholiho Elementary and Waialae Schools to accommodate all the Liliuokalani Elementary students.

b. Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

The consolidation of schools in the Kalani complex has not been considered by the Board. In May 2009, the Board approved the closure of Wailupe Valley Elementary School and the transfer of its students to Aina Haina Elementary School, and in February 2010 the Board approved the closure of Keanae School, formerly a K-3 school. Keanae students had been attending Hana School since the opening of SY 2005-06. Consistent with the Department's recommendation, the Board voted not to consolidate the following schools on the dates shown below:

Kohala schools	August 19, 2010
Maunaloa Elementary School	September 16, 2010
Kaaawa Elementary School	October 7, 2010
Waialua schools	October 21, 2010

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

See above.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

Three general arguments have been expressed against the possible closure of Liliuokalani Elementary School.

First is that next year will be the one hundredth anniversary of the school, which is the only Hawaii school personally dedicated by a monarch. Queen Liliuokalani was present at the school's dedication in April 1912. The argument is that the school should remain open to perpetuate the school's traditions. While tradition is important, we do not believe it is a sufficiently powerful argument in the face of the arguments in support of the recommendation.

Second is that the school provides a nurturing environment for its students. This is true. However, there is no evidence that Liliuokalani Elementary students would not thrive at either Liholiho Elementary or Waialae schools, and based on student achievement at all three schools, the evidence suggests Liliuokalani Elementary students may do better at either of the other two schools.

Third is that larger class sizes for Liliuokalani Elementary School students, as well as students at the receiving schools, would result if Liliuokalani Elementary were closed. While it is true that average class sizes are larger at Liholiho Elementary and Waialae schools, the average class sizes would not increase at Liholiho Elementary or Waialae schools, and the student achievement results at the latter schools indicate that larger class sizes are not detrimental to students.

- f. Findings and conclusions of the Board committee

To be determined.

- g. Other agencies or departments of the State of Hawaii involved in the action

None.

- h. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, Department staff and/or others to the recommendations

As noted above, 33 individuals testified at the public hearing, and 58 pieces of written testimony were submitted prior to, at, and subsequent to the public hearing. Some of these are written copies of oral testimony. All of the testimony was in favor of keeping Liliuokalani Elementary School open.

The Department also received two petitions. One is an on-line petition with the title "Help Save Queen Liliuokalani School." There are 335 names of individuals who responded to the request to electronically sign the petition. The template allows individual comments, and all comments were supportive of keeping the school open. The other is a 122-page petition in opposition to closing Liliuokalani Elementary School with 1,168 manual signatures.

The Kaimuki Neighborhood Board by a vote of 8-0 with one abstention adopted a resolution opposing the closure of Liliuokalani Elementary School.

In summary, all of the publicly-expressed reaction has been in opposition to the closure of Liliuokalani Elementary School.

Privately, some Department of Education personnel, members of the public, and legislators have encouraged the Department to recommend closure of Liliuokalani Elementary School.

- i. Educational implications

See above.

- j. Personnel implications

Consolidation will eliminate all of the positions at Liliuokalani Elementary School. All regular full- and part-time Liliuokalani Elementary employees will be placed elsewhere in the Honolulu district.

- k. Facilities implications

Closure of Liliuokalani Elementary School will make the facilities available for a wide range of possible uses, including DOE offices that would be consolidated from other

scattered locations, a charter school, and an autism center. These are described more fully on pages 14 and 15 of the consolidation study.

I. Financial implications

The closure of Liliuokalani Elementary is estimated to save approximately \$530,000 annually, including fringes of approximately \$150,000. Additional financial savings, operational efficiencies, and educational improvements may result from the reuse of the school's facilities, depending on the futures uses of the facility.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

KSM:RGM:ck

Attachments:

- Consolidation study
- Written testimony received prior to, at, and subsequent to the public hearing
- Notes of oral testimony presented at the public hearing

- c: Calvin Nomiya, Acting Complex Area Superintendent
Raelene Chock, Principal, Liliuokalani Elementary School
Christina Small, Principal, Liholiho Elementary School
Wendy Largareta, Principal, Waialae Elementary PCS
Randolph G. Moore, Assistant Superintendent