PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE USE AND REGULATION ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES

GOAL: To provide the safest and lowest risk approach to controlling pest problems on our school campuses while protecting students, staff, non-target organisms, the environment, and property.

Integrated Pest Management. The Department of Education’s (“DOE”) Auxiliary Services Branch, which is responsible for coordinating pest management system-wide, uses an Integrated Pest Management approach, which has the following characteristics.

- **Herbicide Use is Not Permitted.** DOE’s Auxiliary Services Branch maintains a list of approved products and a price list is in place for schools to use in procuring such products. No products containing Glyphosate are on the approved list. School head custodians are directed not to use any herbicides on campuses as part of their regular training.

- **Preference for Non-Chemical Methods.** Methodologies include: monitoring, cleanliness and sanitation, proper storage of food products, mechanical control (use of traps, mechanical equipment for weeding), exclusion (sealing gaps and holes serving as points of entry for pests), behavioral modification (pests and humans), trash management, water management (avoiding standing water for mosquito breeding), coordination with other public agencies or organizations.

- **Use of Low-Risk Pesticides.** By law (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 149A, Hawaii Pesticides Law), only pesticides that are labeled for use in schools or institutions may be brought in and used by school staff (including teachers and custodians) or by pest control operators. DOE’s practice is to allow very limited use of aerosol pesticides; the most commonly used pesticides are baits for control of ants and cockroaches. Under Hawaii Pesticides Law, failure to follow label directions may lead to civil penalties of up to $5,000 per offense or criminal penalties of up to $25,000 or one year in prison or both. The directions include proper type of facility, target pests, mixing, dosage, precautions and safety equipment.

- **Training and Communication Essential to Success.** The Auxiliary Services Branch has provided formal Integrated Pest Management training to Complex Area Superintendents, numerous principals and vice-principals, administrative services assistants (“ASA”) on all islands, head custodians on all islands, the Department’s Facilities Maintenance Branch, and the Department of Accounting and General Services (“DAGS”) management. Training will be provided to cafeteria managers starting this summer.
**Legal Framework.** There are a number of levels in the legal framework governing pesticide and herbicide use.

- **Hawaii State Constitution.** Establishes authority of Board over statewide education policy-making.
- **Hawaii Revised Statutes.** State Legislature shares policy-making power with Board.
- **Hawaii Administrative Rules.** Procedures for interaction between Departments and the public.
- **Board of Education Policies.** Establishes statewide education policy.
- **Department Procedures.** Implements Board Policy and Hawaii Administrative Rules.

**State Laws.** Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 149A, Hawaii Pesticides Law covers pesticide licensing and sale, pesticide reporting and regulation, pesticide use, and what happens in the event of a violation, warning notice and associated penalties.

**Board Policies.** Board Policies are written broadly to give direction to the Department. The Department institutes procedures to implement these policies. There are several Board Policies in place regarding student safety as it relates to pesticides and herbicides:

- **Policy E-305, Safe Schools, Safe Students,** “The Department shall institute procedures for ensuring the safety and security of pupils, personnel and school buildings.”

- **Policy 305-01, Student Safety and Welfare,** “The Department of Education shall provide a caring environment conducive to the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of students while they are participating in school activities. Attention shall be given to the personal safety of each student during these activities and such attention shall include instruction in safety practices and attitudes; proper maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment; establishment and enforcement of proper rules of conduct at each school including a no use, no possession, and no distribution of tobacco, alcohol and other non-prescription drugs; and provision of services to safeguard students from the deviant behavior of those who fail to conform to standards of conduct compatible with the best interests of all.”