



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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 ENCOURAGING VACCINATION, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2 TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES ON SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES, TO OFFER
3 DISTANCE LEARNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, AND TO RELY ON THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON ALL COVID-19-
5 RELATED HEALTH MATTERS
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7 **WHEREAS**, On March 4, 2020, Governor David Y. Ige issued an emergency
8 proclamation declaring a disaster emergency relief period due to the COVID-19
9 pandemic;
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11 **WHEREAS**, Public schools were not open for traditional, in-person learning
12 during the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year;
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14 **WHEREAS**, On June 18, 2020, the State of Hawaii Board of Education (the
15 “Board”) adopted a resolution directing the Hawaii State Department of Education (the
16 “Department”) to prepare for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year
17 amid the COVID-19 pandemic;
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19 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic required our public school system to pivot,
20 adjust, and add new capacities and capabilities to mitigate health risks to a reasonable
21 extent while delivering effective instruction to all students;

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WHEREAS, Public schools used a range of instructional delivery modes, which are methods for delivering course instruction, during the 2020-2021 school year, including:

- a. In-person learning, where the teacher delivers face-to-face instruction in the same physical space as the students;
- b. Distance learning, where the teacher delivers instruction virtually or online through web-based or internet-based mediums or delivers instruction through other remote mediums; and
- c. Hybrid learning, where the teacher delivers instruction using both in-person and distance learning methods;

WHEREAS, The Department plans to make in-person learning the default instructional delivery mode for all public school students for the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are currently available for adults and children 12 and over;

WHEREAS, The Department provided information on COVID-19 cases in schools by complex area during the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS, The Department plans to offer hybrid and distance learning only on a school-by-school basis for the 2021-2022 school year as determined by the respective school principal and as resources permit;

WHEREAS, The Department made a significant investment in time, energy, and resources during the 2020-2021 school year to ensure schools would be able to

52 implement hybrid and distance learning, including investments in professional
53 development, devices, connectivity, and online learning programs and platforms;

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55 **WHEREAS**, Distance learning appears to be more effective than in-person
56 learning for some students even if in-person learning appears to be more effective than
57 distance learning for the majority of students; now, therefore,

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59 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board encourages all staff, students, and their
60 families to get vaccinated from COVID-19 and urges communities to support efforts to
61 get all students back to in-person learning quickly and safely by helping to remove
62 barriers to vaccination, leading by example, and through education; and

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Department and schools
65 to communicate with families openly and frequently about the measures the schools are
66 taking to keep students healthy and safe in schools and the number of cases at each
67 school to build and strengthen family confidence in the schools' ability to minimize or
68 avoid the spread of COVID-19 in schools; and

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby adopts the following
71 definitions of instructional delivery modes for the 2021-2022 school year; schools can
72 do and use a range of instructional delivery modes within this spectrum: Department
73 having an opportunity to share what is being done to bring kids back safely.

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- 75 a. In-person learning, where the teacher delivers face-to-face instruction in
76 the same physical space as the students;
 - 77
 - 78 b. Distance learning, where a software program delivers instruction or the
79 teacher delivers instruction virtually or online through web-based or
80 internet-based mediums or delivers instruction through other remote
81 mediums ; and

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83 c. Hybrid learning, where the teacher delivers instruction using both in-
84 person and distance learning methods;
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86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby directs the Department to
87 work with families who want their children in a distance learning program because (a)
88 they do not feel comfortable sending their children to a school campus and would like to
89 keep their children at home, (b) their children performed well academically, socially, and
90 emotionally in a distance learning setting, provided that the child's school works with the
91 child's parents or guardians to determine whether a distance learning program is in the
92 best interest of the child, (c) their children have underlying medical conditions, which
93 places them in a high-risk category for serious illness, or (d) their children would be able
94 to get courses from another school or complex that the child's home school does not
95 offer; and
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97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Superintendent to
98 develop and maintain an easily accessible listing of schools that offer distance learning
99 programs along with a description of the distance learning program and whether those
100 schools are currently accepting geographic exceptions to make it easy for families to
101 find distance learning programs, which shall be available by July 21, 2021 on the
102 Department's website and shall be regularly updated; and
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104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Superintendent to
105 research and develop a plan to offer distance learning at the state or complex area
106 levels for the 2021-2022 school year rather than on a school-by-school basis in order to
107 pool resources and expertise and reduce the burden on individual schools; and
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109 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Superintendent to report
110 to the Board on July 29, 2021 with plans to offer distance learning at the state or
111 complex area levels for the 2021-2022 school year, including a communication plan to
112 students, parents and guardians, teachers, and principals; and
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114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Superintendent to
115 analyze and evaluate the costs and benefits of offering statewide distance learning
116 options report to and work with the Board’s Student Achievement Committee on
117 potential long-term policy changes; and

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119 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board decrees that the Department may
120 consider distance learning and hybrid learning equivalent to in-person learning for
121 purposes of calculating instructional days and student hours and meeting the
122 requirements of Section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), provided that the
123 Department issues clear directives to schools and guidance to families and the public
124 regarding how Department schools must calculate instructional days and student hours
125 in distance learning and hybrid learning settings; and

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127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board decrees that public school students
128 engaged in distance learning being delivered by the Department shall be considered in
129 attendance at a public school for compulsory attendance purposes, pursuant to Section
130 302A-1132, HRS, provided that the Department issues clear directives to Department
131 schools and guidance to families and the public regarding how Department schools are
132 to determine whether a student is engaged in distance learning and in attendance; and

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134 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board considers the Department of Health
135 to be the State of Hawaii’s designated public health authority and the sole source of
136 expertise on COVID-19 for state departments and agencies; and

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138 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Department to
139 continuously work with and rely on the Department of Health for any and all updated
140 and current advice and guidance on all COVID-19-related health matters affecting the
141 Department’s operations as the Department of Health deems necessary, including
142 guidance on social distancing, face masks, and ventilation; and

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144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board urges the Department of Health to commit
145 to providing timely, accurate, and up-to-date advice and guidance to the Department to
146 allow it to operate with maximum flexibility while ensuring the health and safety of
147 thousands of students, families, and employees; and

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149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the directives, requests, and positions
150 contained herein shall be effective immediately and expire on June 30, 2022, unless
151 terminated earlier or extended to a later date by a subsequent action of the Board; and

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153 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Board Chairperson to
154 transmit this resolution to the Governor, Legislature, and Department of Health; and

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156 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Superintendent to
157 distribute this resolution to all Department assistant superintendents, complex area
158 superintendents, directors, and principals; and

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This resolution was proposed and approved by the Board at its July 15, 2021
General Business Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Catherine Payne