



Testimony

2 messages

Elizabeth Bowen <elizabeth.bowen@k12.hi.us>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 27, 2023 at 2:29 PM

Has HIDOE included **any safety considerations** for the (now) 4 schools located off of Lahainaluna Road, with only one way in and one way out, especially since this is where some of the first fires started?

i.e.

1. Staggering start and end times for all 4 schools
2. Engaging traffic management
3. Publishing an emergency evacuation plan

Where might we find this information

--

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Bowen

ELL Teacher

Princess Nahienaena Elementary
808-662-4020 x429

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Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Elizabeth Bowen <elizabeth.bowen@k12.hi.us>

Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 3:29 PM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education (Board). This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

[October 4, 2023 Finance and Infrastructure Committee \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[October 4, 2023 Human Resources Committee \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[October 4, 2023 Student Achievement Committee \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[October 4, 2023 Special Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Also, the Department of Education handles the daily operations for public schools, please advise if you would like our office to forward the information contained in your email to Superintendent Keith Hayashi for further handling.

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Reopening Lahaina Schools

2 messages

Jezelyn Gonsalves <jezelyn1990@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 7:15 PM

To whom this may concern,

My name is Jezelyn Gonsalves and I am the mother of 2 haumāna that attend Kula Kaiapuni o Nahi'ena'ena. First off I would like to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work in pushing to open the school so that all our keiki can come back home. However, now that the time is nearing there are still a few concerns that need to be addressed. With the burn area being just below the school I am really concerned about the health of my children. I was born and raised in Lahaina and know that there are times of the year when the wind blows down the mountain towards the ocean but there are other times of the year when the wind blows up towards the mountain. When that happens how would what's below the school affect the school? Can you assure me that my children will not end up having health issues because of those particles being lifted into the air and be carried up towards the school? Another main concern of mine would be the issue of only having one way in and one way out especially for Princess. I would like to know what is the evacuation plan? Princess already has major traffic issues and now the school will be shared with Kam III. Say there's another fire, can you look into my eyes and tell me that my keiki will be escorted out safe and sound? Really think about it now, there is literally one road to go in and out. That road is shared by the school and the surrounding neighborhood. All I can see is gridlock especially if they are all trying to escape along with those of Lahaina Intermediate and Lahainaluna. Thinking about it right now gives me anxiety. At this time I would feel more comfortable with my keiki returning to Kaiapuni via a satellite site rather than on campus. If you can not assure me that my keiki's health and safety will not be compromised I do not feel comfortable leaving my keiki in your hands. I must see an updated evacuation plan.

Mahalo for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Jezelyn Gonsalves <jezelyn1990@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 8:22 AM

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Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Testimony in support of Kula Kaiapuni O Lahaina

2 messages

maile wood <maile.sailingmaui@yahoo.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 8:09 PM

Name: Maile Tuala

I have 4 children who have gone to school in Lahaina their whole lives. I have decided not to have them return to campus due to health, safety, and emotional concerns. I feel that what the teachers at Kula Kaiapuni O Lahaina have accomplished for their students during this unimaginable time is by far above and beyond inspiring. What this program has accomplished shows the love and dedication invested in our children's education and well being.

I ask humbly for your support in opening a temporary campus in Napili.

I do not believe it is wise to send these children daily to an environment where health and safety is extremely questionable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: maile wood <maile.sailingmaui@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 8:22 AM

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Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Testimony

2 messages

Shannon Kalauli <skalauli808@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 9:48 PM

Aloha to whom it may concern.

I Shannon Kalauli parent of a keiki kaiapuni.

I am extremely concerned about my keiki and all keiki having to return to campus up Lahainaluna Road. It's a stone throw away from the burn zone and as we know returning families visiting their homes are having to wear masks and suits so how can we allow our keiki and Kumu's into that same environmental for hours everyday. Not to mention the lack of evacuation routes.

I believe the plan for Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina Satellite Site at Nāpili Gardens is extremely important and best at this time. I hope we as a community have the same interest and intentions. We all want what's best for our keiki to grow and thrive. That can be achieved through the satellite site.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Shannon Kalauli

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Shannon Kalauli <skalauli808@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 8:22 AM

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Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina

2 messages

Lyndee Sprenger <lyndee.o@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 10:18 PM

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Lyndee Sprenger. I am a mother of 4 keiki. My two oldest children are non-speaking, autistic, soon to be 12 year old 6th graders who graduated from Kamehameha III Elementary after attending it for 8 years, beginning as 3 year olds. They were two of the last students to ever attend that beautiful school as they attended ESY into the summer prior to their 6th grade year. My daughters are both Kula Kiapuni haumana. They are in 4th and 1st grade.

While I strive to be a loving and devoted mother, I know I cannot protect my children at every level. I know for my life in particular, I depend on many individuals who dedicate time, love, and care to serve my children and raise them up in the way they should go. Without this public school system, of which I am daily and forever thankful, my life would be impossible.

However, we are as a community and parents now faced with a certain degree of turmoil. We long to protect, yet we need help. We need you, as our supplemental support in raising our children, to also protect and provide for them in the midst of a very tumultuous time. Unfortunately we feel our voices have not been heard.

My personal concern is one of the access routes to and from the Lahainaluna complex schools. Now we have four schools with only one access road. We just watched our friends and families homes burn and had members of our community perish, more than is necessary, because this issue has never been resolved, and yet, because the air, soil, and water has been deemed acceptable, somehow this giant issue is once again being overlooked.

I have attended countless meetings, a number of them with the BOE and the DOE, and this concern has been brought up over and over again, and yet, school is still slated to re-open without the issue being resolved. No student should return to campus without this imperative safety plan, including additional inlet and outlet access roads to and from all Lahainaluna Complex schools, being outlined for all to see.

Our community has suffered extreme tragedy. Many of our Kumu have also lost homes and family. Returning to a campus in the midst of the ruin, one that carries weighted history and generational mana'o, is more than many of our Kumu and 'ohana can bear. To resolve that they must, regardless of the safety, the trauma, the memories, return to the same location and teach while the ruin has not yet even been opened for them to sift through their burned homes, is unthinkable.

Kula Kiapuni o Lahaina has a staff and a parent support system who have made it possible for these students and staff to remain at safe location as a temporary school site while we and our land is healed as well as the safety issue of our students is taken care of. The funding, land, support, and desire for each kiapuni 'ohana member involved is apparent for forward movement. However we need your approval.

If these 200 students at Kiapuni can be moved to a different and safe location until all is secure, by all means, please grant approval! Kiapuni students moving would not only help provide the extra space and unused classrooms for the additional school needing to move up Lahainaluna, but would also help alleviate the strain of another 200 students in the already crowded upper Lahainaluna roadway. We need you, as the Board of Education, to believe in us, stand with us, and help us protect our own keiki. We need to trust you care about us. Let us heal and regroup in the way we need, and please believe we will return better because of it.

Mahalo for your time and your devoted energy to serve us as a community,

Lyndee Sprenger
808-280-8370

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Lyndee Sprenger <lyndee.o@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 8:21 AM

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Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Satellite Location For Kula Kaiapuni

2 messages

Nahau Keahi <nahaukeahi@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 9:54 AM

Aloha,

My name is Nahau Keahi and my son's name is Kapilialoha Keahi-Durrell and he is apart of Kula Kaiapuni. We are scheduled to report to Princess Nahi'ena'ena on October 18th. I personally do not feel comfortable sending my child back to the Princess Nahi'ena'ena campus. I know that they have tested the air quality but would the air still be ok if there is wind blowing in from the burn zone? Also I don't feel that it is safe if there was another fire that broke out on LahainalunaRoad. If the neighborhood below the school was on fire no cars would be able to get through since there's only one way in and one way out. I would rather my child go to a satellite site for Kula Kaiapuni. Could you please help us to make this a reality. My child's safety and health are my number one priority. Mahalo Nui Loa for hearing my concerns.

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Nahau Keahi <nahaukeahi@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 9:55 AM

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Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

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Testimony

1 message

Kapualokelanikekuluamoe Leopoldino <k_lum@live.com>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 12:13 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Welina, mai ka pu'u o pa'ūpa'ū a i ke kai o uō, aloha,

‘O wau ‘O Kapualokelanikekuluamoe Leopoldino a he mākuā kaiapuni au. I'm Kapua, a Kaiapuni parent from Lahaina. I am writing to you in regards to the DOEs return date for schools beginning after the scheduled fall break and that I do not feel as though the environment is safe for my child to return to our beloved town to continue his schooling. While testing has cleared it to be safe, there is still so much uncertainty that leaves me uncomfortable with the decision to return 1 being in the air quality. Who's to say that on a day we experience Kona winds that it won't pick up all the leftover debris that has yet to be cleared/cleaned out of the burn zone and blow it straight up the hill to all schools and affecting our keiki? You cannot guarantee a definitive answer that it won't happen and I'm supposed to just trust in that? I would like for the DOE to be in support of our papahana Kaiapuni, our Kaiapuni program, in allowing our keiki to return via a satellite site. Please allow us to be together during this tragic time we are facing as a kaiāulu to continue to provide to our keiki what they deserve.

Mahalo,
Kapua Leopoldino