

Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | FEBRUARY 2017

TOP STRIVE HI SCHOOLS:

ELA GROWTH

Kamakau PCS	79%
Pauoa EI	79%
Ni'ihau o Kekaha	72%
Ha'aheo EI	72%
Roosevelt High	71%
Ka'ala EI	71%
Kapalama EI	71%
Kapiolani EI	68%
Kalihi-uka EI	68%
Ho'okena EI	68%
Kamehameha III EI	68%
Moanalua Middle	68%
Aiea High	68%
Pearl City EI	68%
de Silva EI	67%
Kamali'i EI	67%
Pearl Harbor Kai EI	66%
Farrington High	66%



Full results online
bit.ly/StriveHI15-16

LEADERSHIP

Hayashi to serve as interim deputy

Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi announced that Waipahu High Principal Keith Hayashi has agreed to serve as deputy superintendent through the remainder of her term which ends on June 30. Hayashi will start March 1. The move follows the resignation of Stephen Schatz, who will lead Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education.

"Keith is a proven educational leader and the success that is taking place at Waipahu High is a testament to his leadership and management skills," Matayoshi said. "Keith's experience will be valuable as we work toward the goals that



Hayashi

and is a former Pearl City-Waipahu CAS. In 2014, he was Hawaii High School Principal of the Year. He is a graduate of Kaimuki High and the University of Hawai'i, where he earned a bachelor's and two masters of education degrees.

Hayashi will return to Waipahu High on July 1.

Full story: HawaiiPublicSchools.org

I've set to accomplish before my term expires."

Hayashi has served as principal at Waipahu High since 2009,

STRIVE HI Opportunities

EDUCATORS

Apply for **Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation Mini-Grants** to help advance your environmental education goals up to \$200 per teacher or \$1,000 per school. Previous grantees have used KHF funds for garden supplies, eco-footprint workshops, vermicompost trainings, and more. Apply by March 1.
<https://kokuahawaiiifoundation.org/minigrants>

Immerse yourself in the practice of teaching using the unparalleled collections of **Library of Congress at its Summer Teacher Institute**. Apply to attend week-long professional development for K-12 educators in the nation's capital. Five institute weeks to choose from. Workshop/materials are free, you pay for travel/accommodations. Apply by March 17. www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute

The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History are seeking nominations for the **National History Teacher of the Year Award**. A winner selected from each state will receive \$1,000 and become a finalist for the national award of \$10,000. For 2017, they seek outstanding K-6 teachers who find creative ways to bring history alive in the classroom and community. Nominate/apply by March 31. gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/national-history-teacher-year

Molokai High dedicates state-of-the-art science building

Molokai High dedicated a new science building in a ceremony before dozens of excited students, teachers, parents and community members. The facility includes two labs for physics, biology and chemistry classes and a teacher prep room.

"Over the years, the faculty and students at Molokai High have set a high bar with its STEM education," said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi. "While the school has received many awards for its projects, this new facility allows for even more innovation to occur."

It also comes at an opportune time with the adoption of Next Generation Science Standards.



The building was designed to be environmentally friendly and sustainable with natural lighting, cross ventilation and water catchment.

The labs each include eight movable stations seating four students each, a separate teacher demonstration table, and student desk seating, and it meets high science lab standards including built-in safety equipment; adequate gas, electrical and

water outlets; and lab worktables and storage cabinets.

"The multipurpose labs will allow for larger experiments, projects and collaborations, all while maintaining a high level of safety," said Principal Stanford Hao.

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Leadership OFFICE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

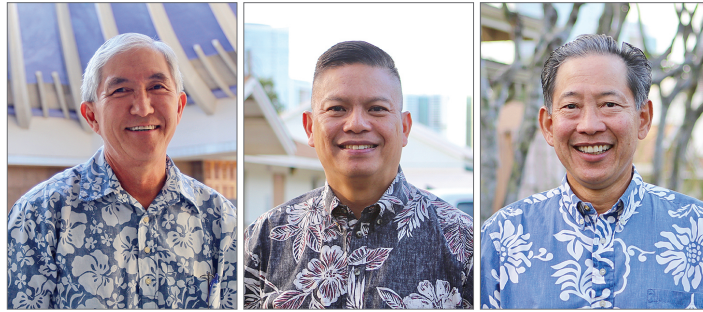
Three new hires bring a wealth of experience, skills, and a deep commitment to improving systems that enable our public schools to strive for our students.

“Having the right people who can manage the many projects and programs within and throughout OSFSS is key to achieving school success,” said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi. “We are pleased to welcome our newest leaders to the Hawai‘i State Department of Education.”

Glenn Okimoto is an executive assistant to Assistant Superintendent Dann Carlson. The former director of the Department of Transportation, state comptroller, and budget director for the University of Hawai‘i is a recognized leader in the area of operations.

Okimoto’s skills range from project management to administrative oversight. He has also served on several boards including the Hawaii Community Development Authority, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit, and the Board of Water Supply.

“I grew up in Waiānae and attended public schools in the area,” Okimoto said. “This is the type of system that has an impact on all communities and families. I want to do my part to help



Please welcome new leadership in the Office of School Facilities & Support Services (OSFSS): From left: Glenn Okimoto, Max Mendoza, Riki Fujitani.

Hawai‘i’s students.”

Okimoto, who has been on the job since August 2016, has already helped OSFSS streamline its services to be more efficient. He is a graduate of Mid-Pacific Institute. He earned a bachelor’s degree and doctorate in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UH-Mānoa.

Maynard “Max” Mendoza is the director of the Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch. Mendoza served over 33 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He was a Security Forces officer, who served as a Regional and Mission Support Group Commander and was a deployed Air Expeditionary Group Commander in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 1991, Mendoza oversaw the closure of Clark Air Base in the

Philippines when the Mount Pinatubo volcanic eruption forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people on the base.

Mendoza is a graduate of Leilehua High and UH-Mānoa. He holds a Masters of Science in Educational Leadership and Management from Troy State University; and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

“I’m married to an educator and my children are also products of the public school system,” said Mendoza. “I look forward to bringing the safety and security lessons I’ve learned through my involvement with other school districts throughout the United States.”

Riki Fujitani is the director of the Auxillary Services Branch. Fujitani brings a background in management, technology,

compliance and litigation, strategic partnerships with public and private companies, and much more. His vast background will be of value as the Department works to improve its data management and procurement systems.

Fujitani has worked in the IT private sector for most of his career serving clients that included the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii Medical Service Association, and Hawaiian Telcom, to name a few.

A graduate of Baldwin High, Fujitani earned his B.S. from University of California at Berkeley, College of Engineering; an MBA from the University of California at Los Angeles; and a JD from the UH William S. Richardson School of Law.

Fujitani is enthusiastic about joining the Department stating, “Having had the opportunity to attend great public schools — Baldwin High, Cal, UCLA, and UH-Mānoa — the DOE was a unique opportunity to work for public education!”

OSFSS exercises technical staff oversight of business, construction and maintenance of facilities, food services, safety, and transportation support for the public school system.

Briefs WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS | MORE AT HAWAIIPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

ASTRONAUT SHARES STORIES FROM SPACE

Astronaut Kjell Lindgren touched down at Challenger Center Hawaii to meet with students from Kaimiloa El in honor of Ellison Onizuka and the Challenger Space Shuttle Crew.

“It’s people like that who inspired me, especially because I’m half Chinese.”

Lindgren encouraged students to follow their dreams and shared his journey to becoming an astronaut, from the Air Force Acad-



Lindgren



Kahawahi

emy to medical school. He flew on Expedition 44/45 and logged 141 days in space. Lindgren’s research includes the groundbreaking “Veggie Experiment” — the first time a U.S. crew has eaten a

crop grown in orbit. After the meeting, students studied Haley’s Comet, which was the Challenger Crew’s mission in 1986.

KAHAWAII HONORED IN D.C. AS TOP COUNSELOR

Kapunahala El Counselor Ramona Kahawahi was named 2017 Counselor of the Year and represented Hawaii at the America School Counselor Association’s annual recognition ceremony in Washington D.C. “When I make that connection with the students and I know I’m

making a difference it makes my job so worthwhile,” she said.

INSTITUTE SELECTS HIDEOE TEACHER, STUDENT

Mililani High student Travis Afuso and teacher Amy Boehning have been accepted into the Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Student & Teacher Institute. They will join 14 other teams from across the country to learn about World War II, and will travel to D.C. and Normandy, France as part of the program.

Success Stories

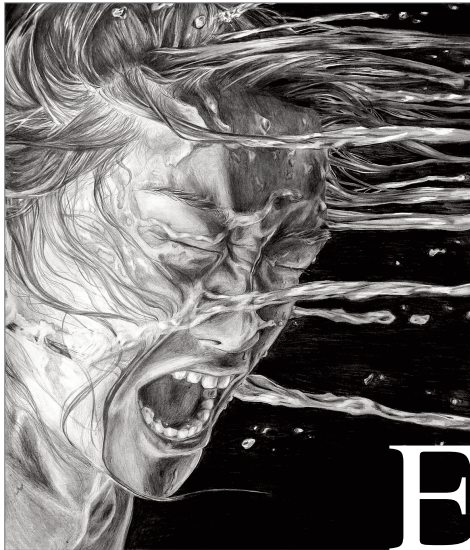
"The work of art is a scream of freedom." — Christo

HALLOWEEN

Kathleen Acasio, Leilehua High.
American Visions & Gold Key nominee.

SHINOTSUKUAME (INTENSE RAIN)

Christina Masutani, Leilehua High.
American Visions & Gold Key nominee.



Express Yourself

FESTERING LIFE

Sylvia Lee,
Moanalua High.
Gold Key nominee.



BLUE HAWAII

Tadum Lee-Reyes, Castle High.
Gold Key nominee.



Nominees for the Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Awards program have been selected, representing a range of media: photography, illustration, mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, painting, digital art, printmaking, fashion, jewelry and more.

The Hawaii State Art Museum will host this dynamic work in an exhibition to run Feb. 24 to April 8.

Students who have been nominated for Gold Key and American Visions awards are eligible for the national awards and scholarship program, which will be announced in March. American Visions represents the highest regional honor in the program for exceptional work.

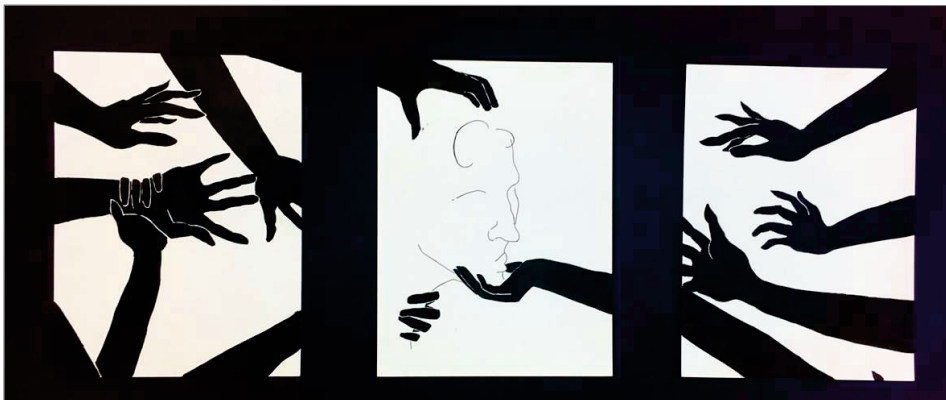
Some highlights:

- 77 HIDOE and 13 charter school students are being honored.
- Leilehua High has 25 students nominated, the most of any public school.

Learn more and view the full list of nominees: bit.ly/HISAA17.

TEMPTATION

Leilani Kanagawa, Wahiawa Middle.
American Visions & Gold Key nominee.



Don't Miss This! EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF

FEB 11 >>>

LIFESMARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Four student teams from Pearl City, Roosevelt, Waiakea and Maryknoll high schools go head-to-head in the ultimate consumer challenge — the Hawaii LifeSmarts Competition at UH-Mānoa, testing teens' knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. The winner will compete at the national championship in Pittsburgh April 21-24. cca.hawaii.gov/lifesmarts



FEB 16

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

World Read Aloud Day motivates children, teens, and adults worldwide to celebrate the power of words and creates a community of readers taking action to show the world that the right to literacy belongs to all people. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries. Download resources from and register your event on the World Read Aloud website: www.litworld.org/wrad



<<< FEB 23-24

HAWAII STATE CTSO CONFERENCE

Hundreds of students will convene at the Hawaii Convention Center for the Career and Technical Student Organization conference, with activities relevant to DECA, An Association of Marketing Students; FCCLA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; HOSA, Future Health Professionals; and SkillsUSA. Note: The Hawaii State Future Farmers of America Convention will be held March 29-31 at Kauai Community College.

MAR 17

SCHOOL QUALITY SURVEY

The window for the 2017 School Quality Survey is open through March 17. Students in grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11, a parent/guardian of these students, and school-level personnel including teachers, administrative office staff, and instructional support staff can offer their feedback about the quality of their schools' safety, school culture, satisfaction and engagement. Please encourage parent participation! Learn more: bit.ly/SQS2017

Supt.'s Corner



The New Year has brought a wave of change and for many, these changes have caused a sense of unrest — whether it's the change in federal leadership and the ripple effects stemming from a new administration, or the change in state educational leadership and what that might mean for program implementation, system trajectory, and more.

It is easy to be distracted by the "what ifs," and so it is even more important we all stay focused on what matters most: students.

Hawai'i's students have done really well over the last few years. It wasn't easy — I can

attest to that, as can thousands of our teachers, leaders and support staff. But the heavy lifting of reform has created a sea change in our public schools. Hawai'i's public school students are more ready for careers and college than ever before (*see box*).

I hope teachers and school leaders take a moment to reflect on the success they've cultivated, particularly where it matters most: in their relationships with students. It's a good time to reflect as we head into this year's annual assessments, and as schools begin work on three-year

academic plans (aligned with our updated Strategic Plan).

Notably, this success happened despite major obstacles. In 2008, we served about 69,000 economically disadvantaged students. Today that number is more than 92,000, just over half of all of our students. More Hawai'i families struggling in this economy means more students needing more school-level interventions and supports.

There is much more to do. Let's keep the focus where it belongs. As always, mahalo for all you do for our keiki.

2011-2015

42% INCREASE

number of students taking and passing AP exams

74% INCREASE

Early College program enrollment

21% INCREASE

number of CTE concentrators (2014-16)

5% INCREASE

number of students enrolling in college nationwide (fall after graduation)

30% DECREASE

number of students requiring remediation in math at UH

35% DECREASE

number of students requiring remediation in English at UH

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