

Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | FEBRUARY 2019



Oahu's 2019 cohort of National Board Certified Teachers, new and renewed, were honored at the Capitol in a ceremony with Gov. David Ige, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and Supt. Christina M. Kishimoto.

Hawai'i 11th in nationally certified teachers

The Hawai'i DOE celebrated 63 teachers statewide who have earned or renewed their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification — a mark of distinction recognizing accomplished teaching.

The teachers voluntarily undertook and completed the pro-

fession's highest mark of achievement through a rigorous, performance-based process, demonstrating their impact on student learning and achievement. They join more than 650 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) in Hawai'i, ranking Hawaii 11th in the country for

the percentage of teachers who are Nationally Board Certified

"The level of dedication shown by these teachers speaks volumes about their commitment to excellence in teaching and we sincerely applaud their efforts," said Asst. Supt. Cynthia Covell.

2019 COHORT

Hawaii Island (12)

- Julianne Arasato, Waiakea High
- Shannon Kline, Konawaena High
- Jacqueline Luna, Chiefess Kapiolani EI
- Tracie Kuniyuki, Mountain View EI
- Shelby Loo, Waimea Middle PCS
- Nauileilima Murphy, Waimea Middle PCS
- Laurie O'Brien, Keaau High
- Kerry Ogawa, Mountain View EI
- Judah Plaut, Konawaena Middle
- Hwa Sohn, Chiefess Kapiolani EI
- Samantha Tomori, Keaau EI
- Heather Wickersham, Konawaena High

Kauai (7)

- Brenda Barker, Kanuikaponu Learning Center PCS
- Elizabeth Corrigan, King Kaumualii EI
- Summer Holwegner, King Kaumualii EI
- Denise Karratti, Kekaha EI
- Peter Nash, Kauai High
- Kathy Shibuya, King Kaumualii EI
- Doreen Stone, King Kaumualii EI

Maui County (10)

- Mary Jean Bega, Pukalani EI
- Lani Espinoza, Kihei EI
- Andrea French, Hana High and Int
- Jennifer Kaopua, Waihee EI
- Greta Vides, Kualapuu EI PCS
- Teresa Rosario, Maui High
- Kathleen Schaffer-Barr, Kihei EI
- Rodney Wade, Kihei EI
- Julia Wagner, Princess Nahienaena EI
- Andrea Yuen, Kaunakakai EI

Oahu (34)

- Shelly Andrews, Kailua High
- Rachel-Leslie Arashiro, Lanakila EI
- Lorna Baniaga-Lee, Campbell High
- Kristen Brummel, Hawaii State Teacher Fellowship Program, Hope Street Group
- Kimberly Celebre, Leilehua High
- Leimomi Chun, Koko Head EI
- Michelle Colte, Inouye EI
- Lisa Espiritu, Nimitz EI
- Laura Ginoza, Pearl City EI
- Camille Hampton, Waianae High

- Vanessa Ching, Ewa Makai Middle
- Lisa Hyatt, Kahuku High and Int
- Ryan Kanetani, Holomua EI
- Mark Kurisu, Leilehua High
- Kristina Lee, Moanalua Middle
- Mae Masuda-Kop, Nimitz EI (retired)
- Erin Mendelson, Central District Office
- Derek Minakami, Kaneohe EI
- Megan Moynihan, Kamaile Academy
- Phyllis Nakama-Kawamoto, Executive Office on Early Learning
- Kathleen Nullet, Kailua Int
- Claire Oshita, Kaewai EI
- Melissa Padilla, Campbell High
- Lory Peroff, Waikiki EI
- Jillian Przygodzinski, Aliiolani EI
- Michael Ericson Ragasa, Waikiki EI
- Natalia Sandoval, Waikiki EI
- Mary Shire, Aiea Int
- Lisa Staib, Kamaile Academy
- Courtney Tawata, Kalihi Kai EI
- Kathleen Trifonovitch, Maunawili EI
- Liane Voss, Moanalua High
- Emily Willis, Kailua Intermediate
- Maile Yasui, Momiilani EI



Opportunities

EDUCATORS

The Hawai'i Council for the Teachers of Mathematics is hosting an Elementary Mini-Conference focusing on PreK-5 learners, with an exciting slate of presenters on a range of topics such as STEM, Math & Comprehension Strategies, Math Games Around the World and more. Feb. 23, Salt Lake Elementary, \$10 members, \$30 non-memebers. bit.ly/HCTM-19

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants help bring students to outdoor sites where they can experience hands-on learning about Hawai'i's environment. Most field trip locations provide hands-on learning experiences for students grades K-12 and offer educational tours that can be customized to any grade level. Funding is limited to \$1,000 per school per year and is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Apply by March 1. kokuahawaii.org/fieldtrips

EdTech Team Summits are engaging, conference-style events focusing on implementing, integrating, and utilizing Google for Education and other educational technology tools. Oahu, March 19-20, UH-Manoa: events.edtechteam.com/hawaii-summit-2019 and Hawai'i Island, March 21-22, Keaau High: events.edtechteam.com/big-island-hawaii-summit-2019. Early bird registration \$299 through Feb. 14, \$349 thereafter, discounts for groups of 5, 10 or 20 participants.

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Growing peace ambassadors

SCHOOL DESIGN STUDENT VOICE TEACHER COLLABORATION

A few years ago, first-grade teacher Chelsey Villamin noticed some of her students were having trouble getting along with others in class. One student expressed to her on the very first day of school that he wasn't allowed to sit by another student.

"Right then and there I knew that we were going to have to do something as a class and set a goal as a community to really embrace each other and our challenges, and really figure out ways to spread kindness and peace," Villamin said.

And with that, the Peace Project was born.

Villamin, who is in her seventh year of teaching at Manoa Elementary School, started off exposing students to literature and books that encouraged the young students to reflect on times when they experienced peace. When they felt it. Tasted it. Smelled it.

The class then adopted a fictional pineapple as a symbolic class mascot to promote the idea of hospitality and the concepts of welcoming and belonging.

"And then it transformed into this challenge of all of them coming up with ways that they can teach each other how to make each other feel really good about themselves, spread kindness, and this sense of being in the moment, calm and able to empathize while spreading this joy," Villamin said.

The effort grew from there and has evolved into a year-long project that Villamin has implemented the last three years. Each year her students help guide what form the Peace Project will take on. Lessons span all subjects from reading, writing and vocabulary to social studies and history.

The first year, students created a book — a ringed binder filled with colorful student artwork on "How to Spread Peace."

"Whatever their idea was, they had to embrace it and teach the whole class," Villamin said of that initial project. "Everyday there would be a peace leader and they



"When kids have a connection to their classroom, to their teacher, to their space, they're so much more dedicated that the learning just comes naturally because they want to be here," Villamin said.

would teach the class, and the challenge was that everyone would do that act of peace."

Some of the students' examples in the book include:

- Give someone a compliment.
- Spread peace by hugging someone when they are sad.
- Spread peace by calming yourself down somewhere peaceful so you can think before you act.
- Spread peace by making a new friend and giving them a friendship bracelet.

In other years, her first-graders chose to focus their Peace Projects on a mural and a peace garden.

In addition to a big project each year, Villamin incorporates daily lessons and activities on peace and mindfulness.

Activities include "Friendship Fridays," when students pull names from a hat and write each other anonymous compliments on a sticky note; greeting each student by name with an appropriate hug,



WATCH

Manoa Elementary's Peace Project takes root:

vimeo.com/312180617

handshake or high-five to start the day; and forming a Peace Circle for self-reflection and goal-setting.

Villamin said it's rewarding to see her students embrace the concepts and get excited to share what they're learning with their families and other students.

"At this young age, incorporating social emotional learning into our everyday routine is the most powerful practice because not only do they come to school to learn, but they come to school to really



HIGH-IMPACT STRATEGIES:
bit.ly/HIDOE-strategies

work together and to thrive," she said. "Now we're learning these 21st Century learning skills — it's all about collaborating and working together and listening to each other."

She said the positive changes she sees in her students fuel her motivation.

"When kids have a connection to their classroom, to their teacher, to their space, they're so much more dedicated that the learning just comes naturally because they want to be here," she said. "And because of that, the transformation throughout the year of them bonding more as an ohana than just peers is the most inspirational thing."

Briefs More at HawaiiPublicSchools.org

DESOTO FINALIST FOR NATIONAL HONOR

Wai'anae High School Counselor Desiré DeSoto was named the 2018 Hawai'i School Counselor of the Year



DeSoto

and was selected as one of six finalists nationwide for the 2019 American School Counselor of the Year recognition.

The School Counselor of the Year award honors professionals who devote their careers to advocating for the nation's students and addressing their academic and social/emotional development and college and career readiness needs. Finalists were judged based on their ability to create systemic change within the school counseling profession. DeSoto, along with the five other finalists, participated in a congressional briefing, met with her members of Congress and attended a School Counselor of the Year Gala in Washington D.C.

"We would like to congratulate Desiré on being selected by the American School Counselor Association for this honor," said Supt. Christina M. Kishimoto. "Through her efforts at Waianae High School and in the community, she has helped to advance school counseling and maximize the educational, academic, career and social development of her students."

DeSoto has been at Wai'anae High since 1996, serving as a school counselor for 12 years. She is a First Nations' Futures Fellow and a graduate of Whitworth University, Chaminade University and Walden University.

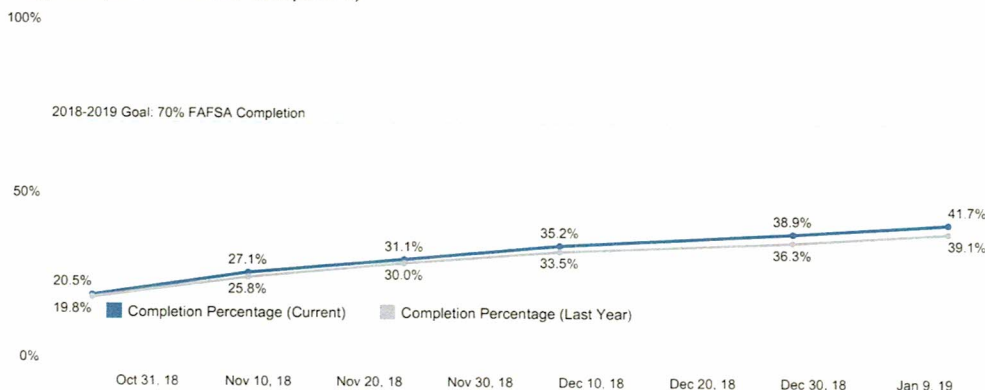
A native of Mākaha, DeSoto is dedicated to supporting the unique challenges faced by the families in the community where she was born and raised. DeSoto's determination to help students envision their post-secondary future lead her to spearhead an important college-going partnership. As an alumna of Whitworth College, she had a critical



State of Hawai'i Cash for College Data Dashboard

	This Year 2018-2019	Last Year 2017-2018	Improvement	Current FAFSAs Completed
FAFSAs Completed (Current)	3,843	FAFSAs Completed (Last Year) 3,742	FAFSAs Completed 101	
Enrollment (Current)	9,217	Enrollment (Last Year) 9,578	Enrollment Difference -356	
Completion Percentage (Current)	41.7%	Completion Percentage (Last Year) 39.1%	Improvement Rate 2.6%	

Progress (total FAFSAs completed)



role in forming Wai'anae to Whitworth 'Auwai, a community partnership with Kamehameha Schools that provides the opportunity for 17 local high school students to attend Whitworth University on full scholarships.

"The most rewarding part of my work is bearing witness to the growth, development, and maturation of my students," said DeSoto. "There are no words to describe the feeling of witnessing students overcome obstacles and fulfill their post-high school goals and dreams."

FAFSA DASHBOARD TO TRACK AID APPLICATIONS

The Hawai'i DOE has launched a new online tool to track comple-

tion rates for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, submittals. Hawai'i's FAFSA Data Dashboard tracks the number of completed applications at high schools statewide and illustrates schools' progress compared with other schools in the same complex area or across the state, and over time.

"Each year the federal government offers more than \$150 billion in federal student aid to help students pay for college, including free grant money that does not need to be repaid, along with scholarships, loans and tuition assistance," said Supt. Kishimoto. "FAFSA applications open the door to college access for our graduates. We want to remind parents that this aid is not al-

ways need-based and it is important to complete applications as early as possible to avoid any delays in receiving aid."

Since the opening of the current FAFSA application period on Oct. 1, 42 percent of high school seniors have completed their applications as of January 11, an increase of three percentage points from the same time a year ago. This completion rate ranks Hawai'i as 11th highest nationally.

HIDOE has set a goal to have 70 percent of high school seniors complete the FAFSA in School Year (SY) 2018 and 90 percent in SY 2020.

The federal deadline for online FAFSA applications is June 30, 2019.