




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 18, 2022

TO: The Honorable Bruce D. Voss
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: **Board Action on Renaming the School Currently Known as Kīhei High School to Kūlanihākoʻi High School**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Hawai'i State Board of Education (Board) Policy 301-8, Naming of Schools and School Facilities (Attachment A), the Board has the authority to approve the naming of public schools and public school facilities.

Based on the information provided in this submittal, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) respectfully recommends that the Board approve the proposed name of the new high school in Kīhei on the island of Maui – Kūlanihākoʻi High School.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board approve the name “Kūlanihākoʻi High School” for the new high school in Kīhei on the island of Maui. Upon approval of the name, the complex area will become the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihākoʻi-Maui Complex Area.

3. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon approval. The school is set to open its doors in Spring 2023.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

Board Policy 301-8, Naming of Schools and School Facilities, provides the Board the authority to approve the naming of public schools and public school facilities. The policy states:

“The name of a school shall be recommended by the Superintendent of Education. The recommendation, with its supporting reasons, shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval. The purpose of this policy is to provide consistency and uniformity in the naming of public schools and public school facilities. The name of a public school or public school facility should be an appropriate representation and reflection of the school or school-community. The name of a school shall be a unique identifier to promote and represent a school’s location or identity.”

The new high school constructed in Kīhei is situated between two gulches, Kūlanihāko‘i and Waipu‘ilani. Kūlanihāko‘i is known as a mythical pond or lake in the sky. When it overflows, it comes to the earth as rain. Kūlanihāko‘i gulch is a vital part of a connected system of upland watersheds, gulches, streams, underground springs, aquifers, flood plains, and wetlands. This portion of the watershed creates a critical link between the land and ocean and serves as a fundamental part of the water cycle. The proposed school name provides a connection to the school site, it is historically and culturally relevant, and it encourages students to think of their connection to water and the land as a whole: from mauka to makai.

Consistent with Board Policy 301-8, Kūlanihāko‘i High School evokes a strong sense of place, belonging, and connection to Hawaiian culture and history. It is also a unique identifier of the school's location and identity.

b. Previous action of the Board and Committee(s) on the same or similar matter:

During the September 16, 2021 General Business Meeting, the Department sought the Board's approval to rename Central Middle School as Ke'elikōlani Middle School. The motion to approve the name "Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani Middle School," as outlined in Interim Superintendent Hayashi's memorandum dated September 16, 2021, carried unanimously with all members present voting aye (Payne/Fallin).

During the January 19, 2020 General Business Meeting, the Department sought the Board's approval to rename East Kapolei Middle School to Hono'uli'uli Middle School. The motion to rename the school known as East Kapolei Middle School as Hono'uli'uli Middle School, as described in the Department's memorandum dated January 16, 2020, carried unanimously with all members present voting aye (Takeno/De Lima).

The Board also approved the renaming of Hale Kula Elementary to Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School and the naming of other new schools such as Ho'okele Elementary School and Ewa Makai Middle School.

c. Other policies affected:

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

Attached for the Board's consideration is a memorandum dated June 13, 2022 from Complex Area Superintendent Jamie Yap which provides details about community engagement involving various individuals and groups in developing the recommended school name. The principal of the new high school convened Native Hawaiian community members with generational ties to the area in which the school sits to conduct a research of the area to inform the naming of the school, present their findings to the larger community, and solicit feedback from stakeholders, including students and parents, on potential names. The Department is confident that Kūlanihāko'i High School clearly represents the community's voice in this matter.

e. Arguments against the recommendation:

There may be community members who would prefer the name Kīhei High School; however, to avoid confusion with the already established Kīhei Charter School, which includes students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, the group opted for a more unique identifier.

f. Other agencies or departments of the State of Hawaii involved in the action:

None.

g. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff, and/or others to the recommendations:

The proposed name is the result of thoughtful community engagement to acknowledge and celebrate the school's location and connection to its rich history. The school's new leadership team wanted to promote the Nā Hopena A'o (HĀ) principles of a Strengthened Sense of Belonging and a Strengthened Sense of Hawaii. To this end, leadership connected with several native Hawaiian community members with generational ties to this area to honor the cultural significance of the South Maui area and the specific school site.

h. Educational implication:

None.

i. Personnel implications:

None.

j. Facilities implications:

None.

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k. Financial implications:

The Department anticipates nominal expenses related to branding the approved school name.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

Thank you for your consideration.

KTH:rmt

Attachments: Attachment A: Board Policy 301-8, Naming of Schools and School Facilities

Attachment B: Memorandum dated June 13, 2022 regarding the name of the new high school in Kīhei

c: Office of Facilities and Operations

POLICY 301-8

NAMING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

The purpose of this policy is to provide consistency and uniformity in the naming of public schools and public school facilities. The name of a public school or public school facility should be an appropriate representation and reflection of the school or school-community.

A. Naming of Schools

The name of a school shall be recommended by the Superintendent of Education. The recommendation, with its supporting reasons, shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval.

The name of a school shall be a unique identifier to promote and represent a school's location or identity.

A school named after a personage shall use the personage's formal title and full name as the official name of the school. Schools shall encourage the use of official names among their students and their communities.

B. Naming of School Facilities

Except for the naming of school facilities after benefactors, the name of a school facility shall be recommended by the school community council of each school. The recommendation, with its supporting reasons, shall be submitted to the complex area superintendent of the respective school for approval. The Board and Superintendent of Education shall be informed of the approved name.

The name of a school facility shall be a unique identifier to honor and acknowledge the exceptional service and significant contributions of a personage to the school, school-community, or public education, or to identify the facility in other ways that bear positive association for the school, school-community, or public education.

School facilities may be named to honor major benefactors whose significant contributions benefit the school, school-community, or public education; provided that naming of a school facility after a benefactor or benefactors shall be: (1) Recommended by the Superintendent of Education and submitted to the Board for approval; and (2) Consistent with the criteria and contribution guidelines specified in the regulations of the Department.

The Board may revoke the name of a school or school facility, if necessary.

The Department of Education shall adopt regulations to implement this policy. The regulations shall include criteria and contribution guidelines for the naming of school facilities after benefactors who have made significant contributions to benefit a school, school-community, or public education.

[Approved: 02/17/2015 (as Board Policy 301.8); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 301-8)]


Former policy 6750 history: approved: 01/1971; amended: 01/01/1979, 11/17/2005, 12/2007



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MAUI DISTRICT OFFICE
54 High Street, 4th Floor, Rm. 401
Wailuku, HI 96793

June 13, 2022

TO: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent

FROM: Jamie Yap, Complex Area Superintendent
Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui 

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for the Name of the New High School in Kihei, HI

I respectfully request your review and approval of the proposed school name “Kūlanihāko‘i High School” for the new high school located in Kihei, Hawaii.

As this area of Maui is part of the Moku o Kula, and the actual school site rests atop two Ahupua‘a-Ka‘ono‘ulu and Waiohuli, it seems appropriate to honor the place where the first and long-awaited high school in the South Maui area is located.

Kihei High School has been the placeholder name for the school during its development for several years and the new school is commonly referred to as Kihei High School throughout the community. However, the school’s principal, Halle Maxwell, wanted to promote the Nā Hopena A‘o principles of a Strengthened Sense of Belonging and a Strengthened Sense of Hawaii. Principal Maxwell connected with the following Native Hawaiian community members with generational ties to this area.

Alana Ka‘opuiki-Pellegrino, Educator
Vernon Kanani o la‘ie Kalanikau, Creator/Director of Maui Nui Ahupua‘a Sign Project
Cody Nemet Tuivaiti, Project Manager of Hui O Ainakuko‘a, Kula Kai 2nd Rep for Aha Moku
Tanya Lee-Greig, Archaeologist
Kanoë Kamali‘i-Ligsay, Hawaiian Culture Based Education Coordinator
Ka‘ena Elaban, Musician, Community Member
Foster Ampong, Advisor to Ahupua‘a Sign Project
Michele Ho‘opi‘i, Advisor to Ahupua‘a Sign Project
Hokuao Pellegrino, Cultural Researcher

This “hui” volunteered countless hours to research the history and cultural significance of the South Maui area and the specific school site. They presented their findings during a virtual community meeting and student presentations at Lokelani Intermediate School. Their research and findings were also included in the community and student surveys that were shared to elicit feedback regarding several name options. The list of names shared for feedback were Kula/Kula Kai High School, Kūlanihāko‘i High School, Kiha-a-Pi‘ilani High School, Patsy T. Mink High School, and Kihei High School.

This school site is situated between two gulches, Kūlanihāko‘i and Waipu‘ilani. Kūlanihāko‘i is known as a mythical pond or lake in the sky. When it overflows, it comes to the earth as rain. Kūlanihāko‘i gulch is a vital part of a connected system of upland watersheds, gulches, streams, underground springs, aquifers, flood plains, and wetlands. This portion of the watershed creates a critical link between the land and ocean, and serves as a fundamental part of the water cycle. This name provides a connection to the school site, it is historically and culturally relevant, and it encourages students to think of their connection to water and the land as a whole: from mauka to makai.

The Hawaii Board of Education Policy 301-8, Naming of Schools and School Facilities states, “The name of a school shall be a unique identifier to promote and represent a school’s location or identity.” Kūlanihāko‘i High School evokes a strong sense of place, belonging, and connection to Hawaiian culture and history, as well as being a unique identifier of the school’s location and identity.

A community meeting was held on March 29, 2022 to present the hui’s research and engage in a conversation around potential name ideas for the new school. Lokelani Intermediate (feeder school to the new high school) students also attended an assembly for the presentation on May 5 & 6, 2022. Lokelani student focus groups to follow-up the presentations were held on May 11 – 13, 2022. Surveys were then sent to Lokelani students, the parents and staff members of the three South Maui schools, along with the broader South Maui community. I also consulted with the Principals of the other complex area schools.

Additional Background Information:

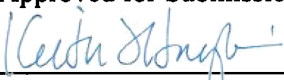
A member of the South Maui Learning Ohana (SMLO), which founded Kihei Charter School (KCS) in 2001, notified Principal Maxwell that the name Kihei High School is not able to be used as a name for the new school because Kihei Charter School has been using the name since 2001 and is claiming rights to/ownership of this name. The AG’s office was contacted and DAG Stuart Fujioka investigated this claim. DAG Fujioka determined that, although KCS does not have ownership of or legal rights to this name, “KCS does have the means to secure the rights to this name, and HIDOEO should consider alternatives in the event KCS registers the name for itself.”

Kūlanihāko‘i High School and Kihei High School were the two most popular names based on the survey results. Principal Maxwell has promoted learning opportunities and dialogue related to a culturally-relevant and place-based name for this school. Given the place-based connection, and considering the potential future challenge to the use of the name Kihei High School, it is my recommendation that the new high school be named Kūlanihāko‘i High School.

Thank you for your consideration.

Approved for Submission to the BOE

Disapproved



Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent

JY:ts

c: Halle Maxwell, Principal, Kihei High School