



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 1, 2023

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

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi  
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: **Board Action on Department of Education's Multi-Year School Calendar (2025-2026 and 2026-2027)**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approving school calendars with ample time before the start of future school years allows for stakeholders to better plan for upcoming years.

The design principles of the proposed calendars are consistent with the current school calendar and are driven by educational implications including: supporting student attendance by maximizing five-day weeks; minimizing learning loss by ending the first semester before Winter Break; ensuring that students are assessed by the teacher who has provided instruction and monitored progress for most of the semester; enabling more opportunities for students to earn college credits and allowing teachers to pursue professional development opportunities over the summer.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recommends that the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) take action to approve the Department-proposed school calendars for two future school years: 2025-2026 (Attachment A) and 2026-2027 (Attachment B).

3. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective for school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. These calendars would be approved but subject to future legislative action and funding, Board action and collective bargaining agreements.

4. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE (if different from the effective date)

See section 3.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

The school calendar has a wide-ranging impact on the community, our employees and our students. Approving a school calendar with ample time before the start of future school years allows for better planning for school improvement (e.g., coordinating teacher planning and collaboration, securing professional development resources), employees, families, partners that provide supplemental services (e.g., afterschool and intersession programs, wraparound services) and facilities improvement projects. Having official school calendars established for multiple years assists schools, families, employees and community organizations in planning for upcoming years. The impact of Board approval of the school calendars for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 would result in two years of approved school calendars.

The Department recommends that the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 calendars include design principles which are the basis of the current school calendar:

- **Provide 180 days of instruction**, as required by state law (Section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes), with approximately 90 days of instruction in each semester. A balanced number of instructional days is beneficial in facilitating teachers' pacing of course content, particularly for secondary schools that offer semester courses providing 0.5 credit per semester or are "block scheduled" with 1 credit per semester.
- **Minimize potential budget impacts of changes in the calendar.**
- **Complete the first semester before the start of Winter Break:**
  - Ending the semester before the holidays maximizes learning time to complete final student assessments for the semester (e.g., exams, other demonstrations of learning) and grading. Completing the semester in the next calendar year would require review and re-teaching in preparation for semester-end assessments due to "learning loss" during school breaks;
  - Approximately 100 teachers retire at the end of each calendar year. Completing the first semester within the calendar year ensures that more students are graded by the teacher who has taught and assessed their progress for the semester. Ending the first semester in January would result in students of recently retired teachers having a new teacher complete their semester and assess their learning in a one- to three-week period in January; and
  - High school seniors can be provided with transcripts that include first semester grades in a timely manner for college admissions and scholarships.

Therefore, the Department is recommending a multi-year calendar that:

- Begins school shortly after August 1 for students;
- Provides a five-day Fall Break after the first quarter;
- Provides a two-week Winter Break;
- Provides a five-day Spring Break after the third quarter;
- Ends the school year in late May; and
- Maximizes five-day weeks for students:
  - Analysis of student attendance data indicates that more students attend school in five-day weeks;
  - Analysis of teacher attendance data indicates more teacher absences on days leading into or returning from holidays, intercessions and long weekends; and
  - Five-day weeks provide the most continuity and least amount of disruption for secondary schools with rotating or block schedules.

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

Most recently, the Board approved the school year calendars for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 on October 21, 2021.

c. Other policies affected:

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

The recommended calendars meet the design principles described in Section 5.a.

Additionally, the calendars:

- Align with the University of Hawaii (UH) academic calendar. This facilitates opportunities for teachers and administrators to pursue additional training and professional development, particularly during the summer. It also enables more high school students to take college courses through the Early College, Running Start and Jump Start programs since the UH semester would be embedded within the high school semester; and
- Are consistent with current collective bargaining agreements.

Board approval of the recommendation would allow for better planning for school improvement and facilities improvements.

e. Arguments against the recommendation:

None.

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

Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) is responsible for construction, repair and maintenance for Neighbor Island schools. Approved multi-year calendars would allow for better planning of DAGS projects.

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association, Hawaii Government Employees Association and United Public Workers were sent drafts of the calendars for feedback and had no comments.

- h. Educational implication:

Educational implications have driven the design of the recommended calendars. The proposed calendar supports student attendance by maximizing five-day weeks; minimizes learning loss and ensures that more students are assessed by the teacher who has provided instruction and monitored progress for most of the semester by ending the first semester before Winter Break; enables more opportunities for students to earn college credits and allows teachers to pursue more professional development opportunities over the summer. A multi-year calendar allows for better planning for school improvement.

- i. Personnel implications:

The recommended calendars do not impact personnel differently than in the past.

- j. Facilities implications:

None.

- k. Financial implications:

The recommended calendars do not change any cost implications compared to prior years.

6. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

KTH:ly

Attachments: Attachment A - Department Recommended Calendar for School Year 2025-2026  
Attachment B - Department Recommended Calendar for School Year 2026-2027

- c: Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

## State of Hawaii – Department of Education

# 2025-26 PROPOSED OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Teachers' Work Year** - 1st Semester: July 29, 2025 - January 5, 2026; 2nd Semester: January 6, 2026 - May 29, 2026

**Students' Work Year** - 1st Semester: August 4, 2025 - December 19, 2025; 2nd Semester: January 6, 2026 - May 28, 2026

Week	Student	Teacher	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
	Days	Days								
0	0	0								
			<b>July 2025</b>	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			<b>August</b>	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
1	0	4								
2	5	9		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	9	13		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4	14	18		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5	19	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	23	27	<b>September</b>	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	28	32		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	33	37		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9	38	42		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10	43	47	<b>October</b>	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
11				5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	48	52		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	53	57		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
14	58	62	<b>November</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
15	63	67		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	67	71		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	72	76		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	75	79		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
19	80	84	<b>December</b>	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
20	85	89		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21	90	94		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22				21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23			<b>January 2026</b>	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
24	94	99		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25	99	104		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
26	103	108		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	108	113		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
28	113	118	<b>February</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	117	123		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	121	127		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
31	126	132		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
32	131	137	<b>March</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33	136	142		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
34				15	16	17	18	19	20	21
35	140	146		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
36	144	150	<b>April</b>	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
37	149	155		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
38	154	160		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
39	159	165		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
40	164	170	<b>May</b>	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
41	169	175		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
42	174	180		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
43	179	185		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
44	182	189		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
45	182	189	<b>June</b>	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	-2^	+1^^		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	180	190								

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

^2 Instructional days shall be converted to a non-student day for school planning and collaboration.

^^The employer may assign up to 6 additional hours, in half hour blocks (an "equivalent day") for training and meetings beyond the teacher's regular work day.

### OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS: 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Statehood Day:	August 15, 2025	New Year's Day:	January 1, 2026
Labor Day:	September 1, 2025	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:	January 19, 2026
Veterans' Day:	November 11, 2025	Presidents' Day:	February 16, 2026
Thanksgiving Day:	November 27, 2025	Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Day:	March 26, 2026
Christmas Day:	December 25, 2025	Good Friday:	April 3, 2026
		Memorial Day:	May 25, 2026

\*Teacher workday between semesters: Jan. 5 \*\*Commencement exercises: No sooner than May 22, 2026

\*\*\*For 10-month teachers - Intercession: Oct. 6-10; Recesses: Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 and Mar. 16-20

\*\*\*\*For 12-month teachers - Paid break days include the day after Thanksgiving: Nov. 28 and Winter Break: Dec. 22 - Jan. 2

Educational Officer & Teacher Institute Days: TBD (one day per island)

PROPOSED CALENDAR



# State of Hawaii – Department of Education

## 2026-27 PROPOSED OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Teachers' Work Year** - 1st Semester: July 28, 2026 - January 4, 2027; 2nd Semester: January 5, 2027 - May 31, 2027  
**Students' Work Year** - 1st Semester: August 3, 2026 - December 18, 2026; 2nd Semester: January 5, 2027 - May 27, 2027

Week	Student	Teacher		Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
Days	Days	Days									
0	0	0	<b>July 2026</b>	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	<b>1st SEMESTER - 89 Student Days (Ends December 18)</b>
1	0	4	<b>August</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	July 28: Teachers' First Day
2	5	9		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	July 28 - July 31: Teacher Work Days (no students)
3	10	14		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	August 3: Students' First Day
4	14	18		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	August 21: Statehood Day
5	19	23		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	<b>Q1</b> 43 days
6	24	28	<b>September</b>	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Ends Oct. 2
7	28	32		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	September 7: Labor Day
8	33	37		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
9	38	42		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
10	43	47	<b>October</b>	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
11				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	October 5-9: Fall Break***
12	48	52		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
13	53	57		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	<b>Q2</b> 46 days
14	58	62		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Ends Dec. 18
15	62	66	<b>November</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	November 3: Election Day
16	66	70		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	November 11: Veterans' Day
17	71	75		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	November 26: Thanksgiving
18	74	78		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	November 27: School Holiday****
19	79	83	<b>December</b>	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
20	84	88		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
21	89	93		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	December 21-January 1: Winter Break*** / ****
22			<b>January 2027</b>	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	<b>2nd SEMESTER - 93 Student Days (Ends May 27)</b>
23				27	28	29	30	31	1	2	December 25: Christmas
24	93	98		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	January 1: New Year's Day
25	98	103		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	January 4: Teacher Workday (no students)*
26	102	107		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	January 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
27	107	112		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
28	112	117	<b>February</b>	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	February 8-12: Institute Day
29	116	122		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	(One day with no students during the week.
30	120	126		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Date for each island TBD.)
31	125	131		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	February 15: Presidents' Day
32	130	136	<b>March</b>	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	
33	135	141		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
34				14	15	16	17	18	19	20	March 15 - 19: Spring Break***
35	139	145		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	March 26: Good Friday
36	143	149	<b>April</b>	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	March 29: Kuhio Day (observed)
37	148	154		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
38	153	159		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
39	158	164		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
40	163	169	<b>May</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
41	168	174		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
42	173	179		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
43	178	184		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	May 27: Last Day for Students
44	182	189		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	and Second Semester Ends**
45	182	189	<b>June</b>	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	May 28: Last Day for Teachers
-2^	+1^^			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	May 31: Memorial Day
180	190										

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

^2 Instructional days shall be converted to a non-student day for school planning and collaboration.

^^The employer may assign up to 6 additional hours, in half hour blocks (an "equivalent day") for training and meetings beyond the teacher's regular work day.

### OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS: 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Statehood Day:	August 21, 2026	New Year's Day:	January 1, 2027
Labor Day:	September 7, 2026	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:	January 18, 2027
Election Day:	November 3, 2026	Presidents' Day:	February 15, 2027
Veterans' Day:	November 11, 2026	Good Friday:	March 26, 2027
Thanksgiving Day:	November 26, 2026	Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Day (obs.):	March 29, 2027
Christmas Day:	December 25, 2026	Memorial Day:	May 31, 2027

\*Teacher workday between semesters: Jan. 4 \*\*Commencement exercises: No sooner than May 21, 2027

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PROPOSED CALENDAR