




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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 10, 2025

TO: The Honorable William Arakaki
Chairperson, Student Achievement Committee

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Committee Action on Department of Education's 2027-2028 and 2028-2029
School Calendars

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) seeks the approval of the proposed school calendars for School Year 2027-2028 and School Year 2028-2029 by the Hawai'i State Board of Education (Board) as required by Board Policy 106-1, School Calendar. The school calendars are designed to meet statutory requirements and maximize student learning. Approving school calendars for multiple years allows for better coordination of school improvement initiatives, supplemental student support services, and facility improvement projects.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board approve its proposed school calendars for School Year 2027-2028 (Attachment A) and School Year 2028-2029 (Attachment B).

3. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval, the school calendars will be shared publicly on the Department's website. The approved school calendars are subject to future legislative action and funding, Board action, and collective bargaining agreements.

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

Upon Board approval.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

Board Policy 106-1, School Calendar, requires that the Board approve the school calendars. The school calendar impacts our employees, our students, our families, and our communities. Schools, employees, families, and community organizations utilize the school calendars to plan for professional, community, and personal activities. Approving official school calendars for multiple years also allows for better coordination of school improvement initiatives (e.g., planning for the implementation of school improvement activities, coordinating teacher planning and collaboration, securing professional development resources), supplemental student support services (e.g., afterschool and intersession programs, wraparound services), and facility improvement projects.

The Department is recommending for approval school calendars for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 that:

- Begin school on or shortly after July 31 for students;
- Provide a five-day Fall Break after the first quarter;
- Provide a two-week Winter Break;
- Provide a five-day Spring Break after the third quarter;
- End the school year in late May; and
- Maximize 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.

The proposed school 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, Hawai'i 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 have implemented a "block schedule" with 1 credit per semester.
- Minimize potential budget impacts of changes in the calendar.
- Complete the first semester before the start of Winter Break:

- Administering final student assessments for the semester (e.g., exams, other demonstrations of learning) before the break maximizes learning time and prevents the need to review and re-teach content as would be needed if the semester-end assessments were administered following the two-week break.
- Approximately 100 teachers retire at the end of each calendar year. Completing the first semester within the calendar year ensures that 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 grades and assess their learning in a one- to three-week period in January.
- High school seniors can be provided with transcripts that include first semester grades in a timely manner for college admissions and scholarships.

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

Most recently, the Board approved the school calendars for School Year 2025-2026 and School Year 2026-2027 during a Special Meeting on June 1, 2023.

c. Other policies affected:

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

The recommended school calendars meet the requirements set forth in Section 302A-251, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and the design principles described in Section 5.a.

Additionally, the recommended school calendars:

- Are consistent with current collective bargaining agreements and
- Align with the University of Hawai'i (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.

Board approval of the recommended school calendars 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 Hawai'i involved in the action:

While not directly involved in the action, the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), who is responsible for construction and repair and maintenance for neighbor island schools, would be impacted. Approved school calendars for multiple years 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 Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Hawai'i Government Employees Association, and United Public Workers were sent drafts of the school calendars for feedback and did not identify any conflicts.

- h. Educational implication:

The recommended school calendars support student attendance by maximizing five-day weeks; minimize learning loss and ensure that more students are assessed by the teacher who has provided instruction and monitored progress for most of the semester; enable more opportunities for students to earn college credits, and allow teachers to pursue more professional development opportunities over the summer. Approving the school calendars for multiple years allows for better planning for school improvement, program development, and professional development.

- i. Personnel implications:

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

- j. Facilities implications:

None.

- k. Financial implications:

The recommended school calendars do not impact the Department's budget differently than they have in the past.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

KTH:ldy

Attachments: Attachment A - Department Recommended Calendar for School Year 2027-2028
Attachment B - Department Recommended Calendar for School Year 2028-2029

c: Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

Hawaii State Department of Education 2027-2028 OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Teachers' Work Year - 1st Semester: July 27, 2027 - January 3, 2028; 2nd Semester: January 4, 2028 - May 25, 2028

Students' Work Year - 1st Semester: August 2, 2027 - December 17, 2027; 2nd Semester: January 4, 2028 - May 24, 2028

Week	Student Days	Teacher Days		Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
			July 2027	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	1st SEMESTER - 89 Student Days (Ends December 17)
1	0	4		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	July 27: Teachers' First Day
2	5	9	August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	July 27-30: Teacher Work Days (no students)
3	10	14		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	August 2: Students' First Day
4	14	18		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	August 20: Statehood Day
5	19	23		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
6	24	28	September	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
7	28	32		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	September 6: Labor Day
8	33	37		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9	38	42		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
10	43	47	October	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	
11				3	4	5	6	7	8	9	October 4-8: Fall Break***
12	48	52		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
13	52	57		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Oct. 18-22: Institute Day (One day with no students during the week. Date for each island TBD.)
14	57	62		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
15	62	67	November	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
16	66	71		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	November 11: Veterans' Day
17	71	76		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	November 25: Thanksgiving
18	74	79		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	November 26: School Holiday****
19	79	84	December	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
20	84	89		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
21	89	94		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	December 20-31: Winter Break*** / ****
22				19	20	21	22	23	24	25	2nd SEMESTER - 93 Student Days (Ends May 24)
23			January 2028	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	December 24: Christmas (observed)
24	93	99		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	December 31: New Year's Day (observed)
25	98	104		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	January 3: Teacher Workday (no students)*
26	102	108		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	January 17: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
27	107	113		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	112	118	February	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
29	117	123		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
30	122	128		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
31	126	132		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	February 21: Presidents' Day
32	131	137	March	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
33	136	142		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
34				12	13	14	15	16	17	18	March 13-17: Spring Break***
35	141	147		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
36	145	151	April	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	March 27: Kuhio Day (observed)
37	150	156		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
38	154	160		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	April 14: Good Friday
39	159	165		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
40	164	170		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
41	169	175	May	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
42	174	180		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
43	179	185		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	May 24: Last Day for Students & Second Semester Ends**
44	182	189		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	May 25: Last Day for Teachers
	-2^		June	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	May 29: Memorial Day
180	189^A										

Q1
43 days

Ends
Oct. 1

Q2
46 days

Ends
Dec. 17

Q3
47 days

Ends
Mar. 10

Q4
46 days

Ends
May 24

*Teacher workday between semesters: Jan. 3

**Last day for seniors: No sooner than May 10, 2028

***For 10-month teachers: Intersession: Oct. 4-8; Recesses: Dec. 20-31 and Mar. 13-17

****For 12-month teachers: Paid break days include the day after Thanksgiving: Nov. 26 and

Winter Break: Dec. 20-31

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

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

^A The work year for teachers consists of 193 days. Teachers report to campus for 189 days and 4 additional days, converted to 27 hours, shall be scheduled contiguous to the teacher's work day. 21 hours are used for job-embedded professional development and 6 hours for training, planning and assessment, or teacher evaluation meetings.

STATE HOLIDAYS: 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR

Statehood Day:	August 20, 2027
Labor Day:	September 6, 2027
Veterans' Day:	November 11, 2027
Thanksgiving Day:	November 25, 2027
Christmas Day (observed):	December 24, 2027
New Year's Day (observed):	December 31, 2027
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:	January 17, 2028
Presidents' Day:	February 21, 2028
Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Day (obs.):	March 27, 2028
Good Friday:	April 14, 2028
Memorial Day:	May 29, 2028

Approved [insert date]

Hawaii State Department of Education 2028-2029 OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Teachers' Work Year - 1st Semester: July 25, 2028 - January 5, 2029; 2nd Semester: January 8, 2029 - May 25, 2029

Students' Work Year - 1st Semester: July 31, 2028 - December 21, 2028; 2nd Semester: January 8, 2029 - May 24, 2029

Week	Student Days	Teacher Days		Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
			July 2028	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	1st SEMESTER - 92 Student Days (Ends December 21)
1	0	4		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	July 25: Teachers' First Day
2	5	9	August	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	July 25-28: Teacher Work Days (no students)
3	10	14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	July 31: Students' First Day
4	14	18		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	August 18: Statehood Day
5	19	23		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
6	24	28	September	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
7	28	32		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	September 4: Labor Day
8	33	37		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
9	38	42		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
10	43	47		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
11	48	52	October	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12				8	9	10	11	12	13	14	October 9-13: Fall Break***
13	53	57		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
14	57	62		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Oct. 23-27: Institute Day (One day with no students during the week. Date for each island TBD.)
15	62	67	November	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	November 7: Election Day
16	65	70		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	November 10: Veterans' Day (observed)
17	70	75		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	November 23: Thanksgiving
18	73	78		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	November 24: School Holiday****
19	78	83	December	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	
20	83	88		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
21	88	93		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	December 22-January 4: Winter Break***/*
22	92	97		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	2nd SEMESTER - 90 Student Days (Ends May 24)
23				24	25	26	27	28	29	30	December 25: Christmas
24	92	98	January 2029	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	January 1: New Year's Day
25	97	103		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	January 5: Teacher Workday (no students)*
26	101	107		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	January 15: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
27	106	112		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	111	117	February	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
29	116	122		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
30	121	127		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
31	125	131		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	February 19: Presidents' Day
32	130	136	March	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	
33	135	141		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
34	140	146		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
35				18	19	20	21	22	23	24	March 19-23: Spring Break***
36	143	149		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	March 26: Kuhio Day
37	148	154	April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	March 30: Good Friday
38	153	159		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
39	158	164		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
40	163	169		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
41	168	174	May	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
42	173	179		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
43	178	184		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	May 24: Last Day for Students & Second Semester Ends**
44	182	189		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	May 25: Last Day for Teachers
	186	192	June	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	May 28: Memorial Day
180	189	192									

*Teacher workday between semesters: Jan. 5

**Last day for seniors: No sooner than May 10, 2029

***For 10-month teachers: Intersession: Oct. 9-13; Recesses: Dec. 22-Jan. 4 and Mar. 19-23

****For 12-month teachers: Paid break days include the day after Thanksgiving: Nov. 24 and

Winter Break: Dec. 22-Jan. 4

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

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^^The work year for teachers consists of 193 days. Teachers report to campus for 189 days and 4 additional days, converted to 27 hours, shall be scheduled contiguous to the teacher's work day. 21 hours are used for job-embedded professional development and 6 hours for training, planning and assessment, or teacher evaluation meetings.

STATE HOLIDAYS: 2028-2029 SCHOOL YEAR

Statehood Day:	August 18, 2028
Labor Day:	September 4, 2028
Election Day:	November 7, 2028
Veterans' Day (observed):	November 10, 2028
Thanksgiving Day:	November 23, 2028
Christmas Day:	December 25, 2028
New Year's Day:	January 1, 2029
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:	January 15, 2029
Presidents' Day:	February 19, 2029
Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Day:	March 26, 2029
Good Friday:	March 30, 2029
Memorial Day:	May 28, 2029

Approved [insert date]