



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 12, 2025

TO: The Honorable Roy Takumi
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Report of the Superintendent: (A) Update on Student Transportation (B) Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees, and/or Schools (C) Update on 2025 Legislative Session

UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department): an update on student transportation, recent awards and recognitions for Department students and employees, and an update on the legislative session.

In addition, the Department continues to provide regular updates to communicate about our public schools:

- Ho'oha'aheo: Weekly newsletter with Department highlights (38,000 subscribers);
- HIDOE Huddle: Monthly newsletter with staff announcements;
- HawaiiPublicSchools.org: Public website (over 6,000 users daily); and
- Social media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn (over 60,000 followers).

KTH:toc
Attachment



HAWAII STATE

Department of Education

Agenda Item III: Report of the Superintendent

- A. Update on student transportation
- B. Awards and recognitions for students, employees, and/or schools
- C. Update on 2025 legislative session

Hawaii State Board of Education
General Business Meeting
May 15, 2025

Keith T. Hayashi, *Superintendent*



SECTION

A

Update on Student Transportation



Student transportation update, 2025-26

In April the Department provided an early update on school bus transportation plans to help families prepare for next school year. **What to expect for School Year 2025-26:**

- **Route Prioritization:** HIDOE will continue to prioritize school bus service for elementary students and students receiving special education services. Applications will open July 14.
<https://go.hidoe.us/HIDOE-SchoolBusService>
- **Public Transit Expansion:** In partnership with counties, the Department is expanding its free county bus pass program, EXPRESS, to include middle/intermediate school students. High school students will continue to be eligible. Interested students must meet the transportation qualifications to be eligible (reside a certain distance from campus). <https://bit.ly/HIDOE-EXPRESS>

The expansion aims to give more families access to reliable transportation options in areas where school bus service may be limited or impacted. Online applications will open July 14.

- **Carpool Pilot Program:** A new carpool pilot program will launch in two school complexes: Mililani (Central O'ahu) and Kekaulike (Upcountry Maui). The program will provide support and resources to help families connect with others in their area to share school drop-off and pickup responsibilities.



SECTION

B

**Awards and Recognitions for
Students, Employees, and/or
Schools**



2025 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership

Babā Yim, poʻo kumu (principal) of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue, was named the 2025 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award recipient at the Public Schools of Hawaiʻi Foundation annual dinner. He received a \$25,000 prize. Two semi-finalists were also recognized: Kailua High Principal Kimberly Anthony-Maeda and Hōnaunau Elementary Principal Noreen Kunitomo.



Photos from left to right: Babā Yim, Kimberly Anthony-Maeda and Noreen Kunitomo with HIDOE leadership.



Milken Educators of Hawai'i 2025 Teacher of Promise

- Haha'ione Elementary kindergarten and Japanese teacher Kylie Nakano was honored with the 2025 Teacher of Promise award by the Milken Educators of Hawai'i.
- Nakano was awarded a \$4,000 cash prize sponsored by HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union for professional development.



Nakano during a surprise ceremony at a faculty meeting.



Nationally Honored Student Councils



National Council of Excellence

Winners:

- Kea'au High School
- Kealakehe Intermediate School
- Molokai High School

National Council of Excellence – Gold Level

Winners:

- 'Aiea High School
- Henry J. Kaiser High School
- Henry Perrine Baldwin High School
- Highlands Intermediate School
- Hilo High School
- 'Īao Intermediate School
- James Campbell High School
- Kahuku High and Intermediate School
- Kailua High School
- Kalāheo High School
- Kaua'i High School
- Maui High School
- Mililani High School
- Moanalua High School
- Pāhoa High and Intermediate School
- President Theodore Roosevelt High School
- Waiākea High School
- Wai'anae High School



Kapa'a High senior makes history with dual graduation

- Veronica "Bonnie" Nagahisa is graduating with both her high school diploma from Kapa'a High and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Chaminade University.
- Nagahisa will start her master's degree this fall at Chaminade University.



Nagahisa proudly holds her Chaminade University diploma.



Localicious Recipe Contest Finalists



Skye Alvarado
Henry J. Kaiser High
Grade 12

Guava BBQ Pulled Chicken Sandwich
with Whole Grain Bun and Liliko'i
Coleslaw with locally sourced guava and
liliko'i puree, chicken, and cabbage



Halia Kaaua
Kalani High
Grade 11

Sweet Sea with locally sourced a'u fish
and 'ulu (breadfruit)



Mark Angelo Ragonton
Molokai High
Grade 11

Tsunami Elote Shrimp with locally
sourced shrimp and corn



SECTION

C

Update on 2025 Legislative Session



Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget summary

The state budget bill – House Bill 300, Conference Draft 1 – was passed on final reading by the Legislature on April 30, 2025. The bill awaits Gov. Josh Green’s action.

The bill provides more general fund support than was requested by the Department and approved by the Board of Education in October 2024.

Funded priorities include: Summer learning, student meals, skilled nursing services, school security, workforce development, and utilities.

General Fund Requests	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2026-27
House Bill 300, Conference Draft 1	\$190,909,992	\$185,886,481
Department request	\$99,207,295	\$97,665,328



Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvements summary

The state budget bill also appropriates funds for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) needs in the following categories:

Lump Sum CIP
Deferred Maintenance: \$71 million
Compliance: \$61 million
Health & Safety: \$40 million
Support Facilities: \$18 million
Project Completion: \$50 million
Recurring CIP Funds
Deferred Maintenance Backlog: \$75 million



Kalani High School



HIDOE legislative packages highlights

Status of bills as of May 2, 2025

28

bills

3

concurrent
resolutions

**Passed and directly affects
Hawai'i public schools**

Key Measures Pending Governor's Approval

Senate Bill 1300	Provides free school meals for families up to 300% of federal poverty level
House Bill 110	Aligns benchmarks for locally sourced agricultural and food products (30% by 2030)
House Bill 133	Provides funding to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport
House Bill 430	Supports expansion of internships and workers' compensation coverage; includes \$1.8 million for internships
House Bill 862	Authorizes use of motorcoaches, small buses and vans for school bus services
House Bill 1293	Exempts purchases of local edible produce less than \$250,000 from the electronic procurement system requirement