



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

MINUTES

Queen Liliuokalani Building
1390 Miller Street, Room 404
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Thursday, February 12, 2026

PRESENT:

Roy M. Takumi, Chairperson
Bill Arakaki, Vice Chairperson
Kahele Dukelow
Mary Hattori
Ken Kuraya
Sylvia Lee
Wesley Lo

EXCUSED:

Elynne Chung
Makana McClellan

ALSO PRESENT:

Mia Nishiguchi, Board Student Representative
Dann Carlson, Board Military Liaison
Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy, Department of Education
Heidi Armstrong, Deputy Superintendent of Academics, Department of Education
Jon Henry Lee, Complex Area Superintendent, Campbell-Kapolei, Department of Education
Capsun Poe, Board Executive Director
Siobhan Ng, Board Analyst
Keli Houston, Board Analyst
Lady Garrett, Secretary

I. Call to Order

Board Chairperson Roy Takumi called the Board of Education (Board) general business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A roll call vote was conducted to establish quorum.

II. Approval of meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, General Business Meeting and January 8, 2026, General Business Meeting

ACTION: Approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, General Business Meeting and January 8, 2026, General Business Meeting. (Lee/Kuraya). The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting aye.

III. Report of the Superintendent

- A. Update on federal education funding**
- B. Update on financial literacy**
- C. Awards and recognitions for students, employees, and schools**

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy and Administration, to provide the report of the superintendent.

The Board took agenda items III.A., III.B., and III.C. together.

Oyadomari-Chun announced that Keith Hayashi, Superintendent, is in Washington D.C. meeting with officials regarding the military installation programs, which provides funding for major renovations for military-impacted schools. He is advocating for the restoration of funding that was previously committed.

On Monday, February 9, 2026, schools were closed due to weather conditions. On Oahu, it was a non-instructional day because it was Teacher Institute Day, which has since been moved to Friday, February 13, 2026. The Department of Education (Department) acknowledges the loss of an instructional day due to the school closure.

Federal education funding

The Department continues to monitor federal funding impacts due to the uncertainty of the federal budget; however the recently passed Congressional budget included education funding for the remainder of the federal fiscal year. The major K-12 education programs continued to be funded more or less at levels similar to the year prior, and are those that help support schools in planning for the upcoming school year, including Title I funds and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds.

Financial literacy

The Department presented an update to the Student Achievement Committee in October on plans for financial literacy education and communicated expectations to the field in December. Beginning with the Class of 2030 and beyond, students will complete a financial literacy learning experience as part of their personal transition plan (PTP), which is required for graduation. The financial literacy requirement follows national financial literacy standards. The Department has received a lot of positive feedback regarding the financial literacy requirement because it is important to its students.

Awards and recognitions for students, employees, and schools

The Hawai'i Association of Secondary School Administrators recognized Christine Udarbe, as the 2026 High School Principal of the Year, Nānākuli High and Intermediate School; Mavis Tasaka, as the 2026 Middle School Principal of the Year, Dole Middle School; and Brandon Lee, as the Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year, Kawānanakoa Middle School.

Lotus Yasuda, Chairperson, Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC) and senior at Waipahu High School was selected to represent Hawai'i in the United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.

Students from across the state participated in the FIRST LEGO league state championship. The following schools received the following invitations: Salt Lake Elementary School to the 2026 FIRST championships in Texas; Mililani Middle School to the 2026 Western Edge National Invitational in California; Waihe'e Elementary School to the 2026 FIRST LEGO League WPI Invitational; and Holomua Elementary to the 2026 FIRST LEGO League Korea Invitational.

The Hawai'i Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) recognized Troy Sueoka, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID), as the ACTE Administrator of the Year; Fern White, Honoka'a-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena complex area, as the Counseling & Career Development Professional of the Year; and Renee Blue, Waipahu Intermediate School, as the 2026 ACTE Teacher of the Year.

'Ewa Makai Middle and Waialua High & Intermediate School was recognized as Hawai'i Schools of Democracy. This initiative recognizes schools that excel at preparing students for active civic life by fostering critical thinking, community engagement, and the values of the Aloha Spirit and Nā Hopena A'o.

The Department broke ground on the first regional kitchen facility in Whitmore Village and will serve the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua complex area starting in fall 2027. The centralized facility is the first in the AINA Kitchen Network and will prepare meals in bulk. Additionally, the Department started work on a new Kealakehe Elementary School classroom building to expand learning space to better serve the growing student population.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony.

Jaime Detweiller, member of the public, testified with comments regarding student well-being.

Justin Hughey, member of the public, testified with comments regarding reviewing assessments and civic education.

Board Chairperson Takumi recognized Senator Kurt Fevella, District 20 (‘Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, ‘Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of ‘Ewa Villages) who was in attendance for the meeting.

IV. Oral report by the student representative regarding the Secondary Student Conference 2026

Board Chairperson Takumi invited Board Student Representative Mia Nishiguchi to provide the oral report regarding the 2026 Secondary Student Conference.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony.

Nishiguchi reported that the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC) held the annual secondary student conference from February 1-3, 2026. The theme of the conference was “E Ho’omau Kākou,” (Let us persevere together) and she shared an excerpt of the theme description. She outlined the conference schedule which included reviewing the legislative process, researching bills, and breakout sessions with legislators. The HSSC also held debates thematically divided into a student achievement committee, co-curricular committee, and school environment committee, with the aim to facilitate and advocate for bills. The HSSC endorsed the following three priority bills: Senate Bill 2222, Relating to Mental Health; House Bill 1780, Relating to Student Transportation; and House Bill 2445, Relating to Student Safety.

Board Member Dukelow asked if the HSSC offered any suggestions for House Bill 2445. Nishiguchi shared that during the conference a lot of support for the House Bill 2445 was shared by students.

Oyadomari-Chun clarified that both the Department and individual students testified on House Bill 2445 at the Legislature.

Board Chairperson Takumi encouraged Nishiguchi and shared that current legislators were former Board Student Representatives. He also asked Nishiguchi to share about the most exciting portion of the conference. Nishiguchi replied that this was her first legislative experience and the energy was exciting, with her favorite part being the debates.

Board Chairperson Takumi asked about the process for selecting the Board Student Representative. Nishiguchi explained that interviews will be held by HSSC to select her replacement. Board Chairperson Takumi asked what the qualifications were. Nishiguchi

shared that as far as she is aware, the only qualification is that a student needs to be a junior or senior in high school.

Board Member Lee expressed appreciation and support for the Board Student Representative to be a voting member of the Board in the future.

V. Action on proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Hawai'i State Board of Education to establish an audit committee

Board Chairperson Takumi stated that the oversight of audits and evaluations is a key responsibility of the Board. The Board previously had an Audit Committee, but it was combined with the Finance and Infrastructure Committee at the Board's General Business meeting on July 18, 2019, in an effort to streamline the Board's work. The time has come to reflect on whether there is a need to resurrect the Audit Committee, which is why the proposed amendments are being considered. The scope of the Audit Committee is detailed in Exhibit B of the memorandum dated February 12, 2026, which will include reviewing all audits, internal and external, and determining whether the audits rise to the level of needing to go before the full Board. The Audit Committee is intended to serve as the primary forum for audit-related oversight, including findings and recommendations issued by the State Auditor and the Department's internal audit office. He proposed an amendment to eliminate audit-related responsibilities from the scope of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee as referenced in section 5.1, as a ministerial amendment.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony.

Alice Luck, HE'E Coalition, testified in support of the recommendation to establish an audit committee.

Board Member Kuraya asked if the Audit Committee would only be reviewing financial audits or program audits as well. Board Chairperson Takumi clarified that the audits could be for both financial or program audits where the committee reviews then bring certain audits forth for full Board consideration.

ACTION: Adopt the bylaws of the Hawai'i State Board of Education as presented in Exhibit B of Chairperson Roy Takumi's memorandum dated February 12, 2026, with an amendment to eliminate audit-related responsibilities from the scope of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee in section 5.1, to take effect on February 13, 2026; and authorize the Board chairperson to have any technical, non-substantive changes made as needed for clarity and consistency. (Kuraya/Lee). The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting aye.

Board Member Lo entered the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

VI. Action on appointment of Board member to represent the Board in negotiation matters pertaining to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association for Bargaining Unit 05

Board Chairperson Takumi stated that the appointment of a Board member to represent the Board in negotiation matters pertaining to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) for Bargaining Unit (BU) 05. Per statutory requirements, the employer's negotiation team represents the interests of their respective roles for the BU 05 collective bargaining agreement in negotiation sessions. The Board has two votes, alongside three votes for the Governor and one vote for the Superintendent. To prepare for the June 30, 2027, contract expiration for BU 05, the Board must appoint a member to the negotiation team to confer with the HSTA on updated employment terms. He recommended that Board Member Bill Arakaki be officially appointed to represent the Board in these negotiations.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

ACTION: Appoint Board Member Bill Arakaki to represent the Board in negotiation matters pertaining to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association for Bargaining Unit 05, with the authority to fully participate and negotiate, up to and including collective bargaining that reaches a tentative agreement with the bargaining unit, provided it supports and advances the Board's priorities and goals in the Hawai'i Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. (Kuraya/Lee). The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting aye.

VII. Action on School Community Council waivers - Round 1

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki as the Board Representative to provide the recommendation for round 1 of the School Community Council (SCC) waivers.

Board Vice Chairperson summarized the SCC waivers requested and mentioned that a summary table is listed in the memorandum. He explained that SCC waivers go through a three-tiered approval process and aligns with each school's academic and financial plan to address specific student needs and operational requirements. There is confirmation that even with the waivers, schools remain in compliance with statutory requirements.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki introduced Kymberly Sparlin, Planning/Evaluation Director, Community Engagement Branch. Sparlin reiterated that schools are available online if the Board members have any specific questions regarding the waiver requests.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

Board Member Lee expressed concern regarding the loss of instructional time and noted that she would like more information.

Board Member Dukelow commented on the variability of the requests and suggested changing the approval structure such that the majority of requests are approved at a lower level, with Board approval required only if a certain number of days is requested.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki expressed appreciation for the comments and shared that the complex area superintendent reviews the SCC waiver requests before the Exception Review Committee. The requests are often for professional development, training, or other mandatory activities. He mentioned that it would be good for the Board to understand how student needs are addressed during the loss of instructional time.

Board Member Dukelow mentioned that this might suggest the need for a few more waiver days across the board.

Board Chairperson Takumi offered to raise the question with Hayashi regarding the process, which starts early so schools can plan their calendars earlier rather than waiting towards the end of the year. The Board has considered in the past whether there should be some general waivers that could apply across the board that could be delegated down to superintendent or complex area superintendents without having to come to the Board.

Oyadomari-Chun clarified that there will be a second round of waivers and that the reason there are two rounds is so schools that have made decisions earlier can proceed with their calendar planning. She mentioned that there have been discussions in the past about general waivers that could apply across the board to be determined by the superintendent or complex area superintendents.

Board Member Lo stated that the Board has the duty of oversight and expressed support for the review process. He also recommended that as the Board approves the SCC waivers that there be a review of the school's academic performance.

ACTION: Approve the school community council requests for exceptions to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association collective bargaining agreement; waivers of section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes; waivers from Board policy for school year 2026-2027; and waivers from Department regulations, as explained in the Department of Education's memorandum dated February 12, 2026. (Arakaki/Lee). The motion passed with Board Members Arakaki, Dukelow, Hattori, Kuraya, Lo, and Takumi voting aye. Board Member Lee voted no.

VIII. Action on appointment of Complex Area Superintendent for the Campbell-Kapolei complex area

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Oyadomari-Chun to provide the recommendation on the appointment of Jon Henry Lee as the complex area superintendent for the Campbell-Kapolei complex area. Oyadomari-Chun introduced Heidi Armstrong, Deputy Superintendent of Academics.

Armstrong described Lee's experience and previous positions in the Department, as well as his accomplishments in those positions and dedication to student achievement and community collaboration.

Lee expressed appreciation to the Department's leadership for the recommendation and described his love and commitment to the Campbell-Kapolei complex area. He acknowledged the talented and dedicated people who support students at all levels. Lee also expressed excitement to learn within the new role to support the good work that is happening in the complex area.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony.

Kurt Fevella, Senator, District 20 ('Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of 'Ewa Villages), testified in support of the appointment of Jon Henry Lee as the complex area superintendent for the Campbell-Kapolei complex area.

ACTION: Approve the appointment of Jon Henry Lee as the complex area superintendent of the Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area effective February 13, 2026. (Arakaki/Lee). The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting aye.

The meeting was recessed at 2:34 p.m. and reconvened at 2:38 p.m.

Board Chairperson Takumi stated that the Board is required by statute to approve the recommendation, but suggested that the Board should consider introducing legislation in the future amending the statutory requirement to not require Board approval of complex area superintendents.

IX. Action on Department of Education proposed revisions to Board Policy 102-15 (High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement) and Board Policy 500-17 (High School Education), relating to the vision of a Hawai'i public school graduate

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Board Member Arakaki to provide the recommendation on the Department's proposed revisions to Board Policy 102-15 and Board Policy 500-17, relating to the vision of a Hawai'i public school graduate.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki described the process for Board policy changes. At the April 10, 2025, meeting of the Student Achievement Committee, the Department presented on the need to amend Board Policies 102-15 and 500-19, regarding the vision of a Hawai'i public school graduate and included a draft of the proposed revisions. Revisions to that draft were made based on feedback from various

stakeholder groups and the revised draft was presented to the Committee at its November 13, 2025, meeting. The Committee agreed that further action on these revisions was warranted and delegated its authority to the Department for next steps. At the January 8, 2026, meeting, the Committee approved the Department's proposed revisions and authorized me as the Chairperson to make any changes to the draft policy revision necessary to respond to feedback received thereafter, for presentation to the full Board. Since then, the draft was sent to the appropriate unions for consultation and conferring. No concerns were expressed, so the proposed revised policies before you are the same as those approved by the Student Achievement Committee at its January 8, 2026, meeting. The draft revised policies are detailed in the Superintendent's memo dated January 8, 2026, which is included as part of our Board materials. The revisions "aim to better reflect the Department's commitment to collaborate with stakeholders to develop graduates who are not only academically prepared, but also emotionally healthy, adaptable, and deeply committed to strengthening their local community in Hawaii."

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

Board Chairperson Takumi acknowledged the work that went into the revision of the vision and expressed appreciation to Teri Ushijima, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID) who led the effort.

ACTION: Approve the draft of revised Board policies 102-15 and 500-17, relating to the vision of a Hawaii public school graduate, as presented in attachments B through E of the Superintendent Keith Hayashi's memorandum dated January 8, 2026; and authorize Board Chairperson Roy Takumi to have any technical, non-substantive changes made as needed for clarity and consistency. (Student Achievement Committee/No second required). The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting aye.

X. Action on proposed draft for Board policy regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Board Member Arakaki to provide the recommendation on the proposed draft for Board policy regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki stated that the proposed draft policy followed the same process as the previous agenda item. The Student Achievement Committee voted to move forward on developing a policy for the use of electronic communication devices by students in schools at the November 13, 2025, meeting. After reviewing findings from Department-initiated surveys, as well as existing research and policy frameworks, a draft policy was developed and approved by the Committee on December 11, 2025. The draft policy was sent out for consult and confer with the appropriate unions and additional consultation with the Department took place, to more fully understand

school-level perspectives and current practices. After consideration of the additional feedback, the draft policy before you are the same as that approved by the Student Achievement Committee at its December 11, 2025, meeting. The draft policy is detailed in Exhibit A of the memorandum, dated December 11, 2025, which is included as part of our Board materials. Although the Legislature is considering proposals that would ban the use of cell phones and related devices during the school day for all school levels, this proposed policy takes a more nuanced and scaffolded approach. It will prohibit cell phones bell-to-bell for the elementary and middle school levels, but at the high school level, will permit use during non-instructional time. This proposed policy balances the multiple and complex perspectives stakeholders within our school communities have on this important issue, while providing a minimum standard of regulation that takes into account students' developmental readiness and maturity. Establishing a unified Board policy, also allows a measure of flexibility to the Department to address the differing needs of local school contexts.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki expressed appreciation for all of the testimony and perspectives that were shared regarding the development of the policy and summarized those various perspectives.

Board Chairperson Takumi clarified that the proposal does allow use of cell phones during non-instructional time at the high school level. He also noted the testimony stating that cell phones are sometimes needed during class time because of a lack of laptops, and mentioned that this policy gives teachers the authority to allow the use of cell phones for instructional purposes.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony.

Alice Luck, HE'E Coalition, testified in support of the proposed policy regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools.

Logan Otani, Generation Rewire, Center for Tomorrow's Leaders, testified in support of the proposed policy regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools.

Hollie Rader, member of the public, testified in support of the proposed policy regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools.

Isabella Romero, member of the public, provided comments on the impact of cell phones and artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom.

Board Student Representative Mia Nishiguchi shared that a majority of the feedback from students expressed appreciation for the policy differentiating between the different levels of school, especially the flexibility given to high school students, and cited that many students were living up to the effective use of technology and the general learner outcome. She also emphasized the importance of allowing cell phone use for communication with parents and coordination of extracurricular activities.

Board Member Lo stated that it is not about the cell phones but rather it is about responsible use of technology and applauded the testifiers, including Nishiguchi, for sharing their perspectives with the Board.

Board Member Dukelow expressed appreciation to the testifiers and expressed support for the policy to provide balance and give schools ways to better manage learning and technology.

Board Member Lee stated that she initially voted no during the Student Achievement Committee, since she prefers consistency. She stated that after reading testimony, she was concerned that one school would be pitted against another without consistency. Board Member Lee expressed appreciation to the testifiers for their testimony.

Oyadomari-Chun asked for clarification on the effective date for when the policy will apply to schools.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki thanked the testifiers and stated that if the policy is passed then it will require implementation, which will require looking at what constitutes responsibility and good behavior. He also mentioned that there may be a need for an AI policy in the future. Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki stated that it comes down to values, reasoning, and philosophy behind the policies. The Department will develop the implementation and the Board will work with the Department on this, because this is an important issue for testifiers. The earliest that the policy could take effect would be for the upcoming school year.

Board Chairperson Takumi discussed the impact of cell phone use among adults and expressed appreciation to Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki, the Department, and Ushijima for her assistance and gathering stakeholder feedback.

ACTION: Approve the policy draft regarding the use of cell phones by students in schools, as presented in Exhibit A of Student Achievement Committee Chairperson Bill Arakaki's memorandum dated December 11, 2025; and authorize the Board Chairperson Roy Takumi to have any technical, non-substantive changes made as needed for clarity and consistency. (Student Achievement Committee/No second required). The motion passed with Board Members Arakaki, Dukelow, Hattori, Kuraya, Lo, and Takumi voting aye. Board Member Lee voted no.

XI. Student Achievement Committee oral report on January 8, 2026, meeting

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Student Achievement Committee Chairperson Arakaki to provide the oral report.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki reported that the Student Achievement Committee met on January 8, 2026. The Committee passed a motion approving a policy draft

developed by the Department proposing revisions to Board Policy 102-15 (High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement) and Board Policy 500-17 (High School Education), both relating to the vision of a Hawai'i public school graduate and authorizing myself as the Committee Chairperson to make any changes to the policy draft necessary to respond to feedback, for presentation to the full Board.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

Board Vice Chairperson Arakaki also mentioned that the testifiers from the Center for Tomorrow's leaders are graduates from Hawai'i public schools and expressed an interest and willingness to participate in workgroups and discussions regarding their work around education.

XII. Finance and Infrastructure Committee oral report on January 8, 2026, meeting

Board Chairperson Takumi called on Finance and Infrastructure Committee Chairperson Kuraya to provide the oral report.

Board Member Kuraya reported that the Finance and Infrastructure Committee met on January 8, 2026. The Committee heard from the Department of Education an update regarding its supplemental capital improvement projects budget requests for fiscal year 2026-2027. The Committee then heard from the Department an update on specifications for educational facilities. The Committee also heard from the Department an update on regional kitchens. The Committee then received an update from the Department on the State's goal of 30% of school meals consisting of locally sourced products.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

XIII. Oral report on events attended by Board members, January 2026

Board Chairperson Takumi reported that he attended along with Board Members Arakaki, Dukelow, and Lee the Principals Forum held on January 5, 2026, which focused on "Why to the Power of "We"=Student Success" at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. This annual forum provides an opportunity for school leaders across the state to learn from each other's practice, collaborate on shared leadership challenges, and increase overall tri-level communication and collaboration.

Board Chairperson Takumi called for public testimony. No testimony was provided.

XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

For written testimony see the following link:

https://boe.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/20260212_GBM_testimony20260209.pdf

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