


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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 9, 2026

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi  
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi  
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Report of the Superintendent: (A) Update on 2026 legislative session (B) Update on Kona low storm damage (C) Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees, and/or Schools

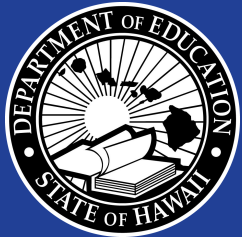
UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE): updates on the 2026 legislative session, the Kona low storm damage, and recent awards and recognitions for HIDOE students and employees.

In addition, the HIDOE 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 V: Report of the Superintendent**

- A. Updates on 2026 legislative session
- B. Update on Kona low storm damage
- C. Awards and recognitions for students, employees and/or schools

Hawaii State Board of Education  
General Business Meeting  
April 9, 2026

**Keith T. Hayashi**, *Superintendent*



SECTION

A

# Updates on 2026 legislative session



# Tracking 2026 legislative bills

## Key deadlines

- April 16: Second Crossover
- April 29: Final Decking (Non-Fiscal Bills)
- May 1: Final Decking (Fiscal Bills)
- May 8: Adjournment, *Sine Die*

| 1,122 House bills + 1,337 Senate bills  |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Introduced this session                 |                     |
| <b>230</b><br>bills                     | <b>482</b><br>bills |
| <b>Actively providing<br/>testimony</b> | <b>Monitoring</b>   |

As of March 30, 2026



# Department measures still advancing

## Status of bills as of March 30, 2026

| Measure No.                             | Relating to...                       | Brief Description   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#"><u>House Bill 1800</u></a>  | THE STATE BUDGET.                    | Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-27 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. |
| <a href="#"><u>House Bill 2293</u></a>  | HARM TO STUDENTS REGISTRY.           | Clarifies the scope of the registry by providing that contractors and volunteers are included only if their roles involves interaction with students.                           |
| <a href="#"><u>House Bill 2296</u></a>  | SCHOOL MEALS.                        | Reduces the charge for all Department school meals from half to a quarter of the cost of preparing the meal.  |
| <a href="#"><u>House Bill 2297</u></a>  | EDUCATION.                           | Updates adult and community education programs framework to ensure alignment with federal funding requirements and current best practice.                                       |
| <a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 2614</u></a> | EDUCATION.                           | Authorizes to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma due to World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam War.                    |
| <a href="#"><u>House Bill 2300</u></a>  | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT. | Clarifies the threshold for the Department's procurement of local edible produce and packaged food products.  |



# Additional legislative bills of interest

Status of bills as of March 30, 2026

| Measure No.                      | Relating to...                      | Brief Description  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 2125</a> | EDUCATION.                          | Permits the hiring of unlicensed teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years.  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 1840</a>  | THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD. | Requires the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to develop an alternative pathway for a visiting international educator permit aligned to the duration of the educator's J-1 visa program. Permits the hiring of unlicensed teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years.   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2345</a>  | SCHOOL FACILITIES.                  | Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance. Transfers all deferred maintenance functions, funds and vacant Facilities Development Branch positions from the Department of Education to the School Facilities Authority. |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 2550</a> | SCHOOL MODERNIZATION.               | Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish a school modernization initiative through a capital improvement project planning database for school facilities statewide.   |



SECTION

**B**

# Update on Kona low storm damage

# Storm impacts across HIDOE schools

500+ storm-related work orders statewide, plus 42 insurance claims for major damage. Estimated \$171 million in total damages statewide as of March 31.

## Impacts:

- Flooding and water intrusion into classrooms
- Mud, debris and damaged materials
- Roof leaks and ceiling damage
- Downed trees and exterior impacts
- Road closures affecting access

## Most impacted areas:

- Hawai'i Island (Konawaena complex) – significant classroom damage
- O'ahu (Mānoa and North Shore) – flash flooding, water system impacts
- Molokai, Maui – impassable roads, flash flooding





## Response actions to storm damage

| <b>Response actions:</b>  | <b>Coordination with partners:</b>  | <b>Current status:</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Statewide school closures ahead of first storm and individual extended closures</p> <p>Spring break used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Campus cleanup</li><li>● Safety checks and damage assessments</li><li>● Administrators and custodial teams assisted with restoration efforts</li></ul> | <p>Department of Accounting and General Services, West Hawai'i Office (facilities and restoration planning)</p> <p>Department of Health (safety guidance and clearance)</p> <p>Hawai'i Foodbank (student and family food security)</p> <p>Stadium Authority (supply drive to benefit schools)</p> | <p>Most schools have reopened statewide. Remaining impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Konawaena High – distance learning for most students</li><li>● Hōkūlani Elementary – temporary relocation to nearby schools with capacity</li><li>● Final safety checks and phased repairs ongoing</li></ul> |



SECTION

C

# Awards and recognitions for students, employees and/or schools



# Hawai'i Elementary & Middle School Administrators Association 2026 National Distinguished Principal and Outstanding Assistant Principal



**Christine Udarbe**  
Nānākuli High & Intermediate  
Hawai'i's 2026 National Distinguished Principal



**Jenna Valbuena**  
Kaimukī Middle  
Hawai'i's 2026 National Outstanding Assistant Principal



## Global Amazing Shake Global Competition 2026



Pictured left to right: Giuliana Siler, Coleman Spathes and Natalie Dalton from Āliamanu Middle School.

The Amazing Shake competition, created by the Ron Clark Academy, develops professional skills for the next generation of leaders.

34 Hawai'i public school students from 12 elementary and middle and intermediate schools represented the state at the global competition.

Giuliana Siler, Coleman Spathes and Natalie Dalton from Āliamanu Middle School placed in the top 30.