

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 14, 2026

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

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Report of the Superintendent: (A) Updates on 2026 legislative session, (B) Commencements – Class of 2026; (C) Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees, and/or Schools

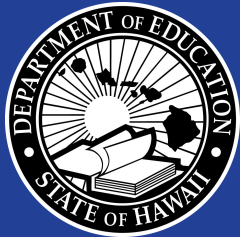
UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE): an update on the legislative session, the class of 2026 commencements, 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



HAWAI'I STATE

Department of Education

Agenda Item III: Report of the Superintendent

- A. Updates on 2026 legislative session
- B. Commencements - Class of 2026
- C. Awards and recognitions for students, employees and/or schools

Hawai'i State Board of Education
General Business Meeting
May 14, 2026

Keith T. Hayashi, *Superintendent*



SECTION

A

Updates on 2026 legislative session



Tracking 2026 legislative bills

Key deadlines

- May 8: Adjournment of Legislature *Sine Die*
- June 30: Governor’s deadline to inform Legislature of potential vetoes
- July 15: Governor’s deadline to sign or veto bills. If Governor does not sign or veto bills, the bill becomes a law

1,122 House bills + 1,337 Senate bills

Introduced this session

<p>950</p> <p>bills, resolutions or Governor’s Messages</p>	<p>213</p> <p>bills, resolutions or Governor’s Messages</p>	<p>20</p> <p>bills</p>
<p>Monitored</p>	<p>Provided testimony</p>	<p>Passed legislature</p>

As of May 7, 2026



Department measures passed by legislature and awaiting Governor's signature

Status of bills as of May 7, 2026

Measure No.	Relating to...	Brief Description
<u>House Bill 1800</u>	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.
<u>House Bill 2293</u>	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.
<u>House Bill 2296</u>	SCHOOL MEALS	Reduces the charge for all Department school meals from half to a quarter of the cost of preparing the meal.
<u>House Bill 2297</u>	EDUCATION	Updates adult and community education programs framework to ensure alignment with federal funding requirements and current best practice.
<u>House Bill 2300</u>	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT	Clarifies the threshold for the Department's procurement of local edible produce and packaged food products. Sunsets 6/30/2028.



Department measures passed by legislature and awaiting Governor's signature

Status of bills as of May 7, 2026

Measure No.	Relating to...	Brief Description
<u>Senate Bill 2613</u>	PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER	Revises tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are conveyed to the Department of Education pursuant to Act 307, SLH 2022.
<u>Senate Bill 2614</u>	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.
<u>Senate Bill 3118</u>	INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN	Updates references to the United States Code in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.



Other education-related bills passed by legislature and awaiting Governor’s signature

Status of bills as of May 7, 2026

Measure No.	Relating to...	Brief Description
<u>House Bill 1713</u>	SCHOOL IMPACT FEES	Expands exemptions from school impact fee requirements; revises use of school impact fees; and preserves existing educational contribution agreements.
<u>House Bill 1785</u>	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	Authorizes the Superintendent to hire a new contractor or assess a penalty if a contractor under a student transportation contract fails to provide service on a contracted service capacity or designated service segment.
<u>House Bill 1888</u>	SAFETY OF EDUCATIONAL WORKERS	Addresses harassment of educational workers including sports officials. Authorizes Attorney General to provide assistance. Makes harassment to an educational worker engaged in the performance of their duty a misdemeanor.
<u>House Bill 1890</u>	EDUCATION	Provides annual salary step increases for teachers, if negotiated into a collective bargaining agreement, and subject to funds appropriated by the Legislature.
<u>House Bill 1891</u>	EDUCATION	Requires the Department of Education to implement dyslexia sensitive linguistically appropriate universal screenings and evidence-based interventions
<u>House Bill 1894</u>	EDUCATION	Requires the Department of Education to include the instruction of braille and provision of braille instructional materials



Other education-related bills passed by legislature and awaiting Governor's signature

Status of bills as of May 7, 2026

Measure No.	Relating to...	Brief Description
<u>House Bill 2344</u>	SCHOOL FACILITIES	Establishes a temporary, independent Public School Realignment and Closure Commission to identify schools for consolidation, realignment, and closures. Recommendations must be implemented by Board and Department by October 1, 2029.
<u>Senate Bill 2125</u>	TEACHER LICENSING	Permits the Department to hire unlicensed individuals as teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years.
<u>Senate Bill 2877</u>	EDUCATION	Requires the Department of Education to establish a two-year Student-Authorled Book Publication Pilot Program for grades 4-6 in Kalihi, Nanakuli and Waianae.
<u>Senate Bill 2930</u>	THE STATE RISK MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND	Assigns School Facilities Authority to build King Kamehameha III replacement school with insurance proceeds related to the 2023 Maui wildfires.
<u>Senate Bill 3262</u>	RELATING TO EDUCATION	Requires that the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board submit three nominees for its Executive Director to the Board of Education. Requires the Board to appoint an Executive Director from the nominees on the list, subject to advice and consent of the Senate.



SECTION

B

Commencements - Class of 2026



Class of 2026 commencement ceremonies



Wailua High Class of 2025 graduates get ready to receive their diplomas.

Graduation ceremonies for nearly 50 public schools statewide begin May 16 through the end of the month.

Approximately 12,000 students will be graduating this year.

The busiest weekend will be Friday, May 22, to Sunday, May 24, with 30 ceremonies taking place.



SECTION

C

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



Citizen-Scholars Award 2026

For over 20 years, the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, HIDEO and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser have honored one outstanding senior from every public high school who best exemplifies citizenship in school and the community.



The 2026 Citizen-Scholars Award ceremony, held at the Prince Waikiki, celebrated 42 public school seniors.



“Do the Write Thing” Student Ambassador

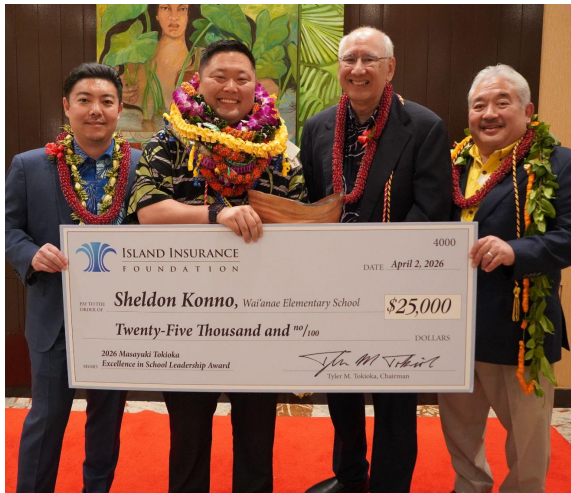


Sanoe Tenise, an eighth grader at Wai‘anae Intermediate School, will travel to Washington, D.C., in July to represent Hawai‘i at the National Do the Write Thing Summit, for her personal essay titled “Raised by Struggle, Driven by Strength.”



Public Schools of Hawai'i Foundation

At the 2026 Public Schools of Hawai'i Foundation Dinner, Sheldon Konno, principal of Wai'anae Elementary, was named the 2026 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award recipient. The Harold KL Castle Foundation also presented Richard Fajardo, complex area superintendent for Pearl City-Waipahu, with the inaugural Alaka'ina Award for his work driving school excellence.



Wai'anae Elementary Principal Sheldon Konno holds his prize check.



Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area Superintendent Richard Fajardo (center with lei) is the recipient of the inaugural Alaka'ina Award.



Milken Teacher of Promise Award

Complex area nominees and one statewide awardee

Hi'i Aiona, Hāna High & Elementary (Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lāna'i-Molokai)

Sunny Arashiro, Pāhoa High & Intermediate (Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa)

Jim Cadiente, Maui Waena Intermediate (Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihāko'i-Maui)

Madilyn Fulchiero, Wai'anae High (Nānākuli-Wai'anae)

Ashley Fuerst, Kapolei Middle (Campbell-Kapolei)

Jenna Hagihara, Castle High (Castle-Kahuku)

Vyas Hale, Kealakehe High (Honoka'a-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena)

Jeffrey Harrington, Waimea High (Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea)

Taryn Travis, Kalani High (Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani)

Taylee Miyamura, Mililani Middle (Leilehua-Mililani-Wai'alua)

Kimi-Lynn Jaye Okikawa-Nakagawa, Aiea Intermediate
(Aiea-Moanalua-Radford)

Ridge Ono, Jarrett Middle (Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt)

Eric Quang, Kalāheo High (Kailua-Kalāheo)

Vanessa Tadena, Pearl City High (Pearl City-Waipahu)



Ashley Fuerst, Kapolei Middle
2026 Hawaii Teacher of Promise



National Board Certified Teachers



2026 National Board Certified Teachers

30 Hawai'i educators were recognized for their completion of the rigorous National Board Certified Teacher certification program.

With the latest cohort of newly certified teachers, there are now 569 in Hawai'i who hold this designation.



Presidential AI Challenge

Educators' Western Division Winner:

Project: Global Innovation Race (GIR)
Hawai'i: A Statewide Student Innovation
Leadership Initiative

Team members: Leah Aiwohi (Kaua'i
High), Kawika Gonzales (Kaunakakai
Elementary), Chloe Sato (Kalani High)



Global Innovation Race students (top); teachers Leah Aiwohi, Kawika Gonzales, Chloe Sato (bottom)



National STEM recognitions



At left, Crystal Doi, a STEM teacher at Kapunahala Elementary, is a finalist for the Shell Science Teaching Award.

Crystal Doi received the Shell Award in Anaheim, California.
Credit: Crystal Doi

At right, Kacie Seitz, an enrichment teacher for grades 3-5 and curriculum coordinator at Kamali'i Elementary, was selected as a 2026 National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow.



Kacie Seitz traveled to Washington, D.C., for her recognition. Credit: Kacie Seitz



2026 NAESP National Gold Star School



“Mōaka I Ke Ala O Nā Kūpuna” — the pathway of our kūpuna is clear for as long as we continue — is the name of the expansive mural on the Kāne‘ohe Elementary campus. Through the images depicted in the mural, students learn about kūpuna, ‘aumakua, aloha ‘āina and the culture and legends of Hawai‘i.

Kāne‘ohe Elementary was selected as an inaugural National Gold Star School by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) for demonstrating excellence in creating a strong learning community with a focus on culture, student empowerment and optimizing systems.