

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 18, 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) Leadership appointments and Nourishing Hawaii's Future Memorandum of Agreement (C) Class of 2026 commencements (D) Summer offerings for students (E) Update on school bus routes and driver vacancies (F) Awards and recognitions for students, employees, and schools

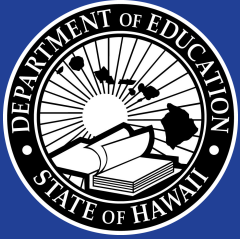
UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE): an update on the legislative session, leadership appointments, MOA signing, communication awards, class of 2026 commencements, summer offerings, an update on school bus routes and driver vacancies 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 IV: Report of the Superintendent**

- A. Updates on 2026 legislative session
- B. Leadership appointments and Nourishing Hawaii's Future Memorandum of Agreement
- C. Class of 2026 commencements
- D. Summer offerings for students
- E. Student transportation outlook
- F. Awards and recognitions for students, employees and/or schools

Hawai'i State Board of Education  
General Business Meeting  
June 18, 2026

**Tammi Oyadomari-Chun**

*Deputy Superintendent for Strategy and Administration*



SECTION

A

# Updates on 2026 legislative session



# Tracking 2026 legislative bills

## Key deadlines

- **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, the bill becomes a law.

## 1,122 House bills + 1,337 Senate bills

Introduced this session

<p><b>950</b> bills, resolutions or Governor’s Messages</p>	<p><b>213</b> bills, resolutions or Governor’s Messages</p>	<p><b>20</b> bills</p>	<p><b>2</b> enacted (as of June 10)</p>
<p><b>Monitored</b></p>	<p><b>Provided testimony</b></p>	<p><b>Passed legislature</b></p>	<p><b>Signed by Governor</b></p>



SECTION

**B**

# Leadership Appointments and Nourishing Hawaii's Future Memorandum of Agreement



# Leadership appointments



**Richard Fajardo**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Facilities and Operations



**Joseph Halfmann**  
Interim Complex Area Superintendent  
Pearl City-Waipahu



# Nourishing Hawai'i's Future Memorandum of Agreement

On May 15, nine state agencies signed onto a joint [memorandum of agreement](#) to formalize partnerships to expand the use of locally sourced foods in Hawai'i public school meals and strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural and food systems.



*MOA signing ceremony at Mililani High with First Lady Jaime Kanani Green, BOE member Elynn Chung, Superintendent Keith Hayashi, legislators and partner state departments and agencies.*



SECTION

C

# Class of 2026 commencements



# Congratulations, Class of 2026!



*Clockwise: Kūlanihāko'i High's first graduating class; Board of Education Student Representative Mia Nishiguchi receives her Kalani High diploma; seven Lāna'i High & Elementary seniors earned associate degrees alongside their diplomas.*

Approximately 12,000 high school graduates from 46 public high schools received diplomas at commencement ceremonies statewide in May.

Scan QR code for a video recap or visit:

[vimeo.com/hidoe/  
2026graduation](https://vimeo.com/hidoe/2026graduation)





SECTION

**D**

# Summer offerings for students



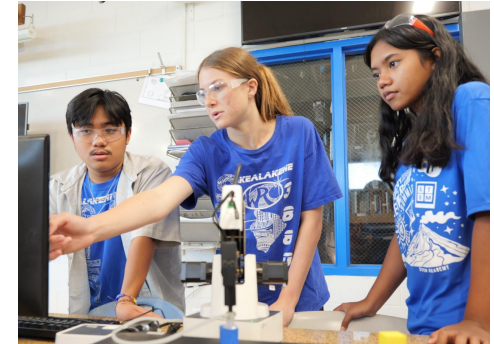
# Summer learning

Over 220 public schools will be offering summer programs, including academic remediation, credit recovery, targeted intervention, acceleration courses and transition programs. Program highlights include:

- **Summer Start Kindergarten Transition Program**  
Provides incoming kindergartners early exposure to classroom routines.
- **Specialized Student Support**  
Extended learning opportunities available for students needing specialized services and support.
- **College, Career and Community Learning**  
Opportunities include paid summer internships through HIDOE or school partnerships, as well as transition and “on-ramp” programs to help students prepare for college and careers after graduation.



*Ka'elepulu Elementary*



*Kealakehe High*



## Free summer meals

Starting this month, 74 public schools are offering free summer meals to children ages 18 and younger through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Seamless Summer Option program.

### O’AHU (42)

August Ahrens El.  
Barbers Point El.  
Campbell High  
Dole Middle  
Farrington High  
Fern El.  
Hau’ula El.  
Jarrett Middle  
Ka’ala El.  
Ka’ewai El.  
Kahuku El.  
Kahuku High & Inter.  
Kailua El.  
Kaimukī High  
Ka’iulani El.

Kalākaua Middle  
Kalihi El.  
Kalihi Waena El.  
Kāne’ohe El.  
Kapālama El.  
Kauluwela El.  
Ke’elikōlani Middle  
Kula Kaiapuni ‘O  
Ānuenu  
Lā’ie El.  
Leihōkū El.  
Lincoln El.  
Ma’ema’e El.  
Mā’ili El.  
Mākaha El.  
Nānāikapono El.

Nānākuli El.  
Nānākuli High & Inter.  
Pālolo El.  
Pearl City High  
Pope El.  
Pū’ōhala El.  
Pu’uhale El.  
Roosevelt High  
Stevenson Middle  
Wai’anae High  
Wai’anae Inter.  
Waiau El.

### HAWAII’I (19)

Hilo High  
Hilo Inter.

Honoka’a High & Inter.  
Kalaniana’ole El.  
Kea’au El.  
Kea’au High  
Kea’au Middle  
Kealakehe El.  
Kealakehe Inter.  
Keaukaha El.  
Keonepoko El.  
Kohala High  
Kohala Middle  
Mountain View El.  
Pāhoa High & Inter.  
Waiākea High  
Waiākea Inter.  
Waiākeawaena El.  
Waimea El.

### MAUI (10)

Baldwin High  
Ha’ikū El.  
‘Īao Inter.  
Kahului El.  
Kalama Inter.  
Kekaulike High  
Kīhei El.  
Nāhi’ena’ena El.  
Pā’ia El.  
Waihe’e El.

### KAUA’I (3)

Kapa’a El.  
Kaumuali’i El.  
Kekaha El.



SECTION

**E**

# Update on school bus routes and driver vacancies

# Student transportation outlook

School bus transportation for students in the next school year is anticipated to be similar to this past school year.

- **School Bus Routes**

300 school bus routes in service in School Year 2025-26 are expected to be in service next school year. Some routes have been consolidated in areas impacted by the ongoing bus driver shortage.

- **Driver Availability**

Driver staffing is expected to hold steady next school year. Bus contractors' efforts to recruit more drivers are continuing.

- **GoKid Carpool Pilot Concluded**

Pilot initiative offered secure app platform to encourage carpooling in Mililani and Kekaulike Complexes. Program ended due to low use and cost-benefit analysis.





SECTION

**F**

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



# Students earn 88 medals at 2026 SkillsUSA competition

School	Total medals awarded	Gold medals Among total medals
Waipahu High	15	4
Kealakehe High	14	5
‘Ewa Makai Middle	10	6
Mililani High	9	2
Leilehua High	8	3
Pearl City High	7	3
9 other schools combined	25	7



Photo courtesy: ‘Ewa Makai Middle School



Kealakehe High Wolveriders with Make48 CEO Tom Gray  
Photo courtesy: SkillsUSA

# Hawai'i Carpenters' Career Connections

Six Hawai'i public school graduates were among nearly 200 newly certified journeyworkers, including carpenters, drywall specialists and millwrights recognized June 6 by the Hawai'i Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund.

The six are the first HIDEOE graduates to complete the apprenticeship pathway that began in high school through the partnership between HIDEOE and HCATF.



*Ron Taketa, Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; Teri Ushijima, HIDEOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design; Clyde Ivan Deane Pascua, **Maui High** class of 2021; Elijah-Noah Rodriguez, **Kahuku High & Intermediate** class of 2021; Mason Chung, **Mililani High** class of 2022; Edmund Aczon, Hawai'i Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund; Superintendent Keith Hayashi; Wanelle Kaneshiro, HIDEOE Workforce Development Branch.*



# 2026 National Civics Bee Hawai'i State Champion

Hailey Smith, an eighth grader at Moanalua Middle was named the 2026 National Civics Bee Hawai'i State Champion.

She will travel to Washington, D.C., this fall to represent Hawai'i at the national competition with her personal essay on the restoration of coral reefs and the importance of protecting Hawai'i's natural resources.

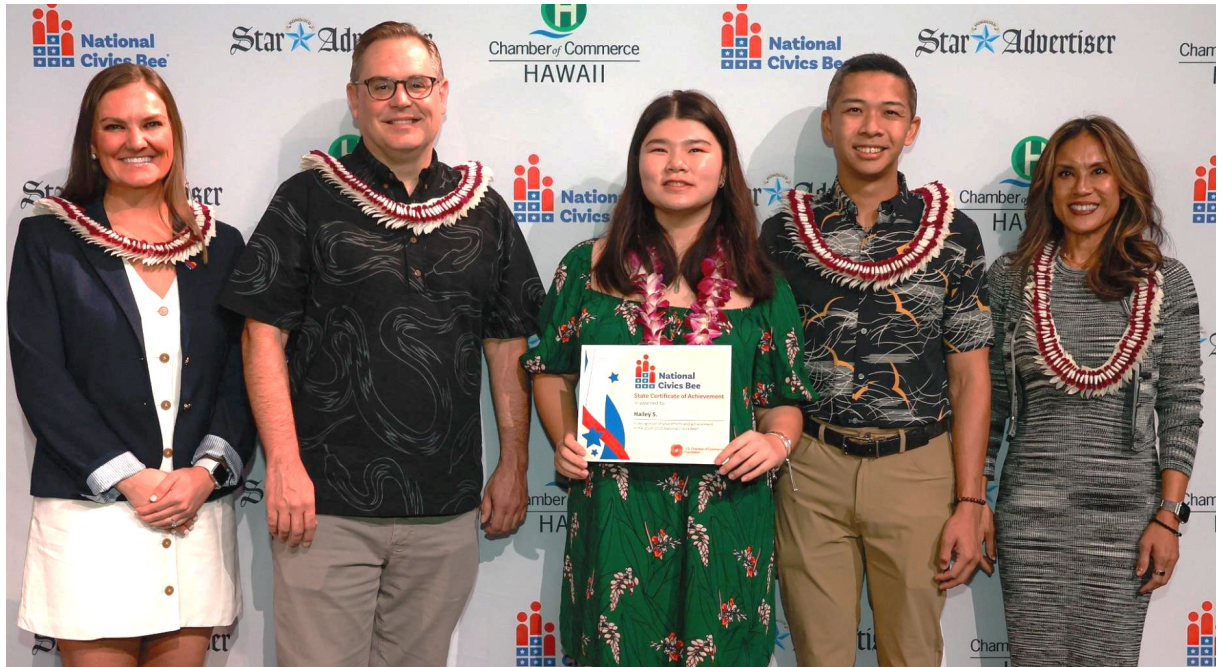


Photo courtesy: National Civics Bee



# Spring sports state champions

Sport	School
Baseball	Division I: Mililani High
	Division II: Honoka'a High
Girls Flag Football	Division I: Moanalua High
	Division II: Kapolei High
Judo	Boys: Pearl City High
	Girls: Moanalua High
Softball	Division I: Mililani High
Surfing	Boys: Kahuku High
	Girls: Waialua High
Tennis	Girls Singles: Moanalua High
Track & Field	Boys: Moanalua High
Volleyball	Division I: Boys: Moanalua High



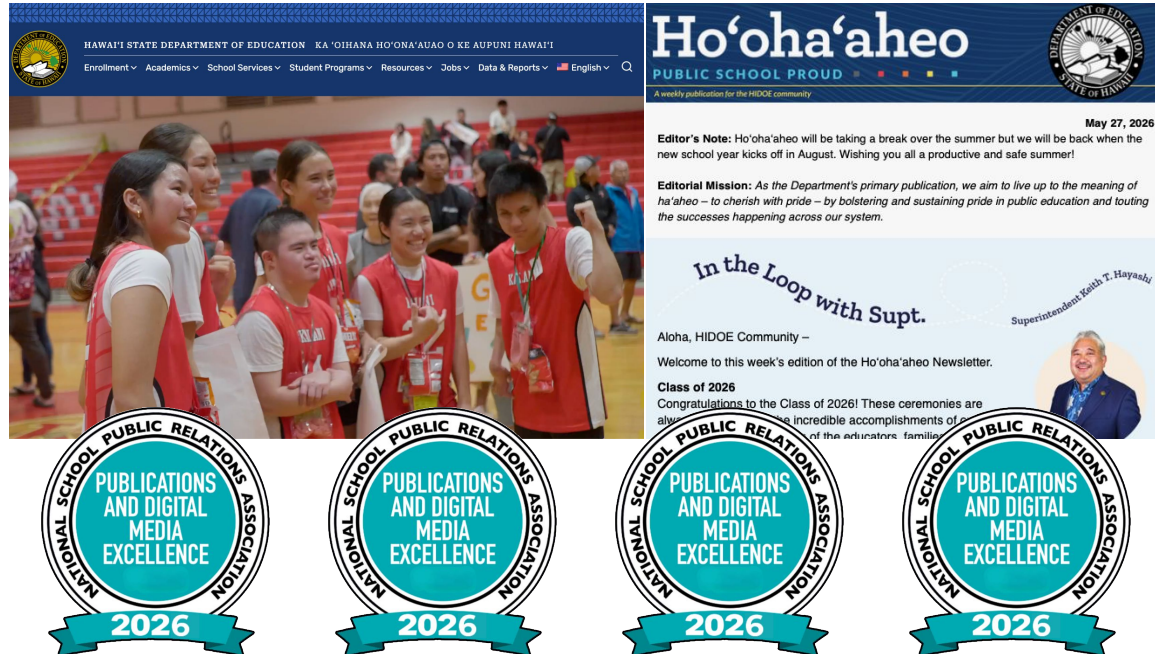
*Mililani High girls softball team wins the HHSAA Division I state championship.*



# National School Public Relations Association awards

Projects from the Department's Communications Branch were among a record number of entries submitted by school districts nationwide.

- **Website - Award of Excellence:** Redesign of hawaiipublicschools.org
- **Special Purpose Publication - Award of Excellence:** HIDOE principals leading their alma maters
- **Newsletter - Award of Merit:** Ho'oha'aheo Weekly Newsletter
- **Social Media - Honorable Mention:** Mural Mo'olelo Social Media Series





# U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalists

Five public school students are semifinalists for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The program honors some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors for broad academic achievement.

Approximately 20 student are selected for academic and artistic scholarship in the visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing. Another 20 for outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in Career and Technical Education fields.



**Daniel Chen,**  
Kealakehe High

**Lian Ragasa,**  
Hilo High\*

**Johnray G. Salud,**  
Kauai High\*

**Zachariah E. Smith,**  
Kealakehe High\*\*

**Vera H. Wang,**  
Kaiser High