JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻONAʻAUAO
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 10, 2026

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

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Report of the Superintendent: (A) Response and recovery from Hurricane Lala (B) Act 264 (Session Laws of Hawaiʻi, 2026): School consolidation, realignment, or closure (C) Official enrollment count for 2026-2027 school year (D) Awards and recognitions for students, employees, and/or schools

UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawaiʻi State Department of Education (HIDOE): response and recovery from Hurricane Lala, Act 264 (Session laws of Hawaiʻi, 2026): School consolidation, realignment, or closure; the official enrollment count for school year 2026-2027; 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:

- Hoʻohaʻaheo: Weekly newsletter with HIDOE 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

HAWAIʻI STATE

Department of Education

Agenda Item V: Report of the Superintendent

A. Response and Recovery from Hurricane Lala

B. Act 264 (Session Laws of Hawaiʻi, 2026): School Consolidation, Realignment, or Closure

C. Official Enrollment Count for 2026-2027 School Year

D. Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees and/or Schools

Hawaiʻi State Board of Education
General Business Meeting
September 10, 2026

Keith T. Hayashi, *Superintendent*

SECTION

A

Response and Recovery from Hurricane Lala

Impacts across HIDOE schools

Hurricane Lala resulted in statewide school and office closures through the weekend of Aug. 15 as the storm approached the state, and on Monday, Aug. 17 for damage assessment and recovery.

The Department received nearly 800 storm-related work orders statewide including impacts of:

- Downed trees
- Damaged roofs from water intrusion
- Mud, debris and damaged exterior impacts
- Electrical issues
- Road closures affecting access

The most impacted schools were Kaʻū High & Pāhala Elementary and Nāʻālehu Elementary on Hawaiʻi Island with estimated repairs of $2.3 million.



Nāʻālehu Elementary School and Niu Valley Middle School

Campus impacts and reopening plans for Kaʻū

	School size	Campus Impacts	Status
Kaʻū High & Pāhala Elementary	Student enrollment: 482 (K-12) Salaried staff: 90	Classroom flood damage, electricity and water issues, campus debris	**Aug. 27:** Staff returned to campus **Aug. 31:** Students returned to campus
Nāʻālehu Elementary	Student enrollment: 365 (PreK-6) Salaried staff: 54	Classroom flood damage, electricity and water issues, campus debris	**Aug. 28:** Staff returned at Kaʻū District Gym **Sept. 2:** Students start in-person learning at Kaʻū District Gym on a rotational basis



Nāʻālehu Elementary staff in the Kaʻū District Gym

Kaʻū community meal box distribution



Pāhala and Nāʻālehu meal box distribution sites

On Aug. 26 and 27, the Department distributed 3,800 free shelf-stable meals to support children and families in Kaʻū communities.

- Three distribution sites in Pāhala, Nāʻālehu and Ocean View.
- Each meal box contained five breakfasts and five lunches that meet school meal nutritional requirements.
- Instructional packets for elementary students were also distributed with meal boxes.

As students returned to in-person instruction, Kaʻū High & Pāhala Elementary students resumed to regular school meal service and Nāʻālehu Elementary students received a combination of school meal service and take-home meal boxes to ensure access to meals throughout the week.

SECTION

B

Act 264
(Session Laws of Hawaiʻi, 2026)

School Consolidation, Realignment, or Closure

Act 264, Relating to School Facilities

Purpose: House Bill 2344, signed into law as Act 264 (Session Laws of Hawai‘i, 2026), establishes a temporary, independent Public School Realignment and Closure Commission to review the state's public school facilities and recommend a comprehensive package of public school facilities consolidations, realignments or closures for an expedited approval process.

Objective: Address "declining (student) enrollment, potential reductions in federal funding, and the state's need for fiscal prudence."

Approach: "The legislature… finds that the federal Base Realignment and Closure process provides a proven and effective model for making complex and politically sensitive infrastructure decisions. By establishing an independent commission and requiring an 'all-or-nothing' vote on its recommendations, the Base Realignment and Closure model ensures that decisions are guided by objective data and the overall public interest rather than localized political pressures."

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=2344&year=2026

Composition of commission under Act 264

Nine-member commission

Voting Members (7)	**Governor**: 1 appointee	**Non-Voting, Ex Officio (2)**	Department of Accounting and General Services **Comptroller** (or designee)
	Senate President: 2 appointees **Senate Minority Leader**: 1 appointee		
	House Speaker: 2 appointees **House Minority Leader**: 1 appointee		Department of Education **Superintendent** (or designee)

Eligibility: Current elected officials, registered lobbyists, DOE employees, BOE members and School Facilities Authority employees or Board members are ineligible to serve as voting commissioners

Qualifications: Each appointee shall have experience in one or more of the following fields: public finance, urban planning, real estate, education administration or facilities management.

Compensation: Commissioners shall serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for expenses, including travel, necessary for the performance of their duties.

Criteria commission shall use under Act 264

The Commission shall develop and—after public hearings—adopt a comprehensive and objective set of criteria to be used in evaluating public school facilities for potential consolidation, realignment or closure. The criteria shall include:

Enrollment trends The facility's current and projected student enrollment	**Facility condition** The facility's condition, including any deferred maintenance backlogs or capital improvement needs	**Operational costs** The facility's annual operational costs and cost per pupil
Facility capacity The facility's capacity and utilization rates	**Geographic proximity** The geographic proximity and capacity of other schools in the area	**Future potential** The potential for reuse, sale or redevelopment of school properties
Academic needs The academic needs of students, with specific consideration for students receiving special education services	**Equity considerations** Equity considerations, including the impact of a potential consolidation, realignment or closure on students from disadvantaged communities	**Transition feasibility** The logistical feasibility of transition plans for affected students and staff

Timeline set forth in Act 264

Starting **July 31, 2026**	Governor, Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, House Speaker, and House Minority Leader to appoint commissioners
Within 100 days of commissioners' appointment	Commission develops and adopts criteria (in consultation with Board of Education)
	Commission evaluates school facilities and conducts a statewide review (in consultation with Board of Education)
	Commission publishes preliminary report with proposed recommendations
	Commission holds public hearings (minimum one per county with 20 days notice)
By **Oct. 1, 2028**	Commission publishes final report
June 1, 2029	Commission ends
By **Oct. 1, 2029**	Board of Education and Department of Education implement Commission's recommendations

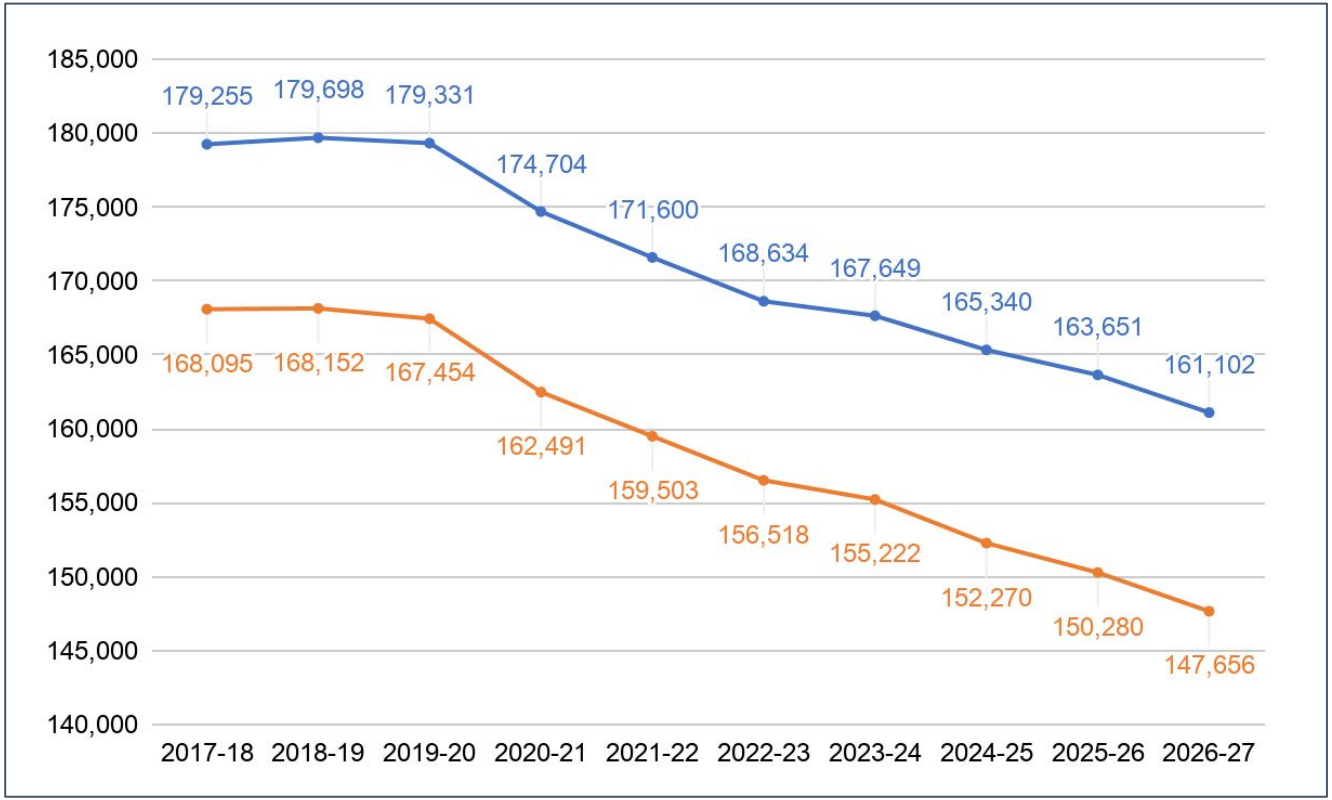
Commission subject to Sunshine Law (Chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). Administratively attached to Department of Accounting and General Services. Appropriated $150,000 (Fiscal Year 2027) for expenses.

SECTION

C

Official Enrollment Count for 2026-2027 School Year

10-Year Official Enrollment Count, 2017-18 to 2026-27



Source: Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

Largest schools by enrollment, SY 2026-27

School	2026-27 Enrollment
James Campbell High	2,884
Hawai'i Technology Academy (Charter)	2,416
Waipahu High	2,409
Mililani High	2,306
Moanalua High School	1,957

School	2026-27 Enrollment
Governor Wallace Rider Farrington High School	1,846
Kapolei High School	1,755
Leilehua High School	1,549
Mililani Middle School	1,544
Kalani High School	1,480

Photo: James Campbell High summer learning P.E. class

Smallest schools by enrollment, SY 2026-27

School	2026-27 Enrollment
Niihau High & Elementary	10
Ke Ana Laʻahana (Charter)	14
Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (Charter)	32
Hawaiʻi School for the Deaf and the Blind	45
Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha (Charter)	48

School	2026-27 Enrollment
Hakipuʻu Academy (Charter)	52
Maunaloa Elementary	64
Kilohana Elementary	66
Olomana School	67
Hoʻokena Elementary	83

Photo: Olomana School

Schools with greatest enrollment decreases

Based on count, compared with 2025-26, due to shifting and declining enrollment

School	Total 2026-27 Enrollment	Change
Kahakai Elementary School	**438**	↓ 56
DreamHouse ʻEwa Beach (Charter)	**473**	↓ 109
ʻEwa Beach Elementary School	**653**	↓ 55
Hawaiʻi Academy of Arts & Science (Charter)	**722**	↓ 56
Nānākuli High & Intermediate School	**831**	↓ 79

School	Total 2026-27 Enrollment	Change
August Ahrens Elementary School	**1,049**	↓ 56
President William McKinley High School	**1,072**	↓ 61
Kealakehe High School	**1,352**	↓ 78
Maui High School	**1,462**	↓ 82
Governor W.R. Farrington High School	**1,846**	↓ 158

Schools with highest enrollment increases

Based on count, compared with 2025-26, due to shifting and declining enrollment

School	Total 2026-27 Enrollment	Change
Kūlia Academy (Charter)	**271**	↑ 118
West Hawaii Explorations PCS (Charter)	**319**	↑ 46
Kamaliʻi Elementary School	**367**	↑ 40
Waiʻanae Elementary School	**485**	↑ 61
Kūlanihākoʻi High School	**600**	↑ 47

School	Total 2026-27 Enrollment	Change
Admiral C.W. Nimitz Elementary School	**601**	↑ 54
1SG Samuel K. Solomon Elementary School	**665**	↑ 43
Āliamanu Middle School	**783**	↑ 47
Hoʻokele Elementary School	**857**	↑ 86
Hawaiʻi Technology Academy (Charter)	**2,416**	↑ 187

SECTION

D

Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees and/or Schools

Complex area and charter school teachers of the year



Troy "Leven" Abshire Jr.
Makawao Elementary
Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihākoʻi-Maui



Keao Cockett
ʻEwa Makai Middle
Campbell-Kapolei



Robert Livermore
King Kamehameha III Elementary
Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lānaʻi-Molokai



Kileigh Sanchez
Waiʻanae Intermediate
Nānākuli-Waiʻanae



Haley Agbayani
Pāhoa Elementary
Kaʻū-Keaʻau-Pāhoa



Paul Dela Balazs
Henry J. Kaiser High
Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani



Chezerae Lurbe
Kaʻaʻawa Elementary
Castle-Kahuku



Chad Shishido
Pearl City High
Pearl City-Waipahu



Fahri Arik
Kūlia Academy
Public Charter Schools



Chu Hong
Kaimukī High
Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt



Matthew Moustakas
Kealakehe Intermediate
Honokaʻa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena



Cheriesse Tolu
Kailua High
Kailua-Kalāheo



Tammy Carvalho
Kapaʻa Elementary
Kapaʻa-Kauaʻi-Waimea



Shawn Patrick Kalani
ʻAiea High
ʻAiea-Moanalua-Radford



Bao Nguyen
Mililani Uka Elementary
Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua



Adam Tuifagu
Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole Elementary
Hilo-Waiākea

Headshots of the 2027 complex area teachers of the year and charter school teachers of the year

Middle level ‘Schools of Distinction’

National recognition



‘Aiea Intermediate School



‘Īao Intermediate School



Niu Valley Middle School



Pāhoa High and Intermediate School

‘Aiea Intermediate, ‘Īao Intermediate, Niu Valley Middle and Pāhoa High and Intermediate Schools have been named 2026 “Schools of Distinction” by the Association for Middle Level Education.

The award recognizes schools that go above and beyond in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of middle schoolers.

Culture & Community · Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment · Leadership & Organization
AMLE
Schools of Distinction®

Naval Honor School designation



Kapolei High School Marine Corps JROTC

Kapolei High has been designated as a Naval Honor School, a distinction for Marine Corps JROTC programs that are ranked in the top 20% in the nation.

Kapolei High has won the Naval Honor School recognition every year since 2015 and has the only Marine Corps JROTC program in the Hawai‘i.

The selection was based on cadet participation, community service hours, academic achievement, competition performance and outreach activities.