

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 8, 2026

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

FROM:  for
Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Report of the Superintendent: (A) Response to and Recovery from Natural Disasters in 2026 (B) Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees, and/or Schools

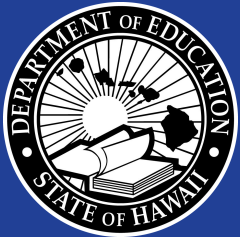
UPDATE

The attached presentation highlights key milestones for the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE): an update on response and recovery from natural disasters in 2026 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 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



HAWAII STATE

Department of Education

Agenda Item II: Report of the Superintendent

- A. Response to and Recovery from Natural Disasters in 2026
- B. Awards and Recognitions for Students, Employees and/or Schools

Hawaii State Board of Education
General Business Meeting
October 8, 2026

Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, *Deputy Superintendent of Strategy and Administration*



SECTION

A

Response to and Recovery from Natural Disasters in 2026



Impacts of natural disasters: spring 2026

Natural Disaster

Date

Kona Low 1

March 10

Kona Low 2

March 15-23

*Severe weather conditions**

April 10

**Not a "natural disaster" but prompted large scale school closures.*

School closures, spring 2026

Statewide closure of all 258 schools 1 day

Number of days closed Highest: 7
Average: 1.9

Impact on HDOE facilities, spring 2026

Total schools impacted: **54**

Total work orders: **224**

Damage and response cost: **~\$162 million**

State of Hawai'i Major Disaster Funds committed for repair and restoration: **\$50 million**



Flood damage at Konawaena High.



Impacts of natural disasters: fall 2026

Natural Disaster

Date

Hurricane Lala

Aug. 14-16

Hurricane Lowell

Sept. 7-8

Hurricane Nolo

Sept. 25-26

Weather-related school closures, fall 2026

Statewide closure of all 258 schools 1 day

Number of days closed Highest: 13
Average: 2.6

Impact on HIDOE facilities, fall 2026

Total schools impacted: **55**

Total work orders: **185**

Damage and response cost: **>\$36 million***

** Repair and maintenance cost assessments are ongoing for Hurricane Lowell and Hurricane Nolo.*



Damaged fence line at Elsie H. Wilcox Elementary in Līhu'e.

Kona Low Storms

Storm impacts

- March 13: All public schools closed.
- March 20-27: 15 schools remained closed for varying durations while campuses were assessed for safe reopening.

Repair and maintenance

- Repairs needed at 54 schools
- 224 work orders generated
- \$162 million in preliminary cost estimates

Response and recovery

- Hōkūlani Elementary's campus reopened for the new school year after students and staff had relocated to nearby campuses due to flooding.
- Konawaena High students transitioned to distance learning for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.



Hōkūlani Elementary moved back to campus in July 2026.

Hurricane Lala

Storm impacts

- Aug. 17: All public schools closed.
- Aug. 18-25: 31 schools remained closed for varying durations while campuses were assessed for safe reopening.

Repair and maintenance

- Repairs needed at 38 schools
- 153 work orders generated
- \$12 million in preliminary cost estimates

Response and recovery

- Temporary learning site established for Nā'ālehu Elementary at the Ka'ū District Gym.
- 3,800 shelf-stable meals distributed to the school community on Aug. 26-27. Meal boxes continue to be sent home with Nā'ālehu students during the modified learning schedule.



Top photos: Ongoing repairs at Nā'ālehu Elementary. Bottom photos: Welcoming Nā'ālehu Elementary students to the temporary learning site at Ka'ū District Gym.

Hurricane Lowell

Storm impacts

- Sept. 8: O'ahu, Kaua'i and Maui schools were closed (189 schools)
- Sept. 15: Kīlauea Elementary reopened
- Sept. 21: Hanalei Elementary reopened
- Most Kaua'i school bus transportation routes have been restored.

Repair and maintenance

- Repairs needed at 17 schools
- 32 work orders generated
- \$24 million in preliminary cost estimates

Response and recovery

- 100 three-day meal packs were distributed to Hanalei Elementary students and families during recovery, along with instructional materials.



Storm damage and recovery at, clockwise from top left, Kapa'a Elementary, Kapa'a Middle and Kapa'a High schools.



Hurricane Nolo

Storm impacts

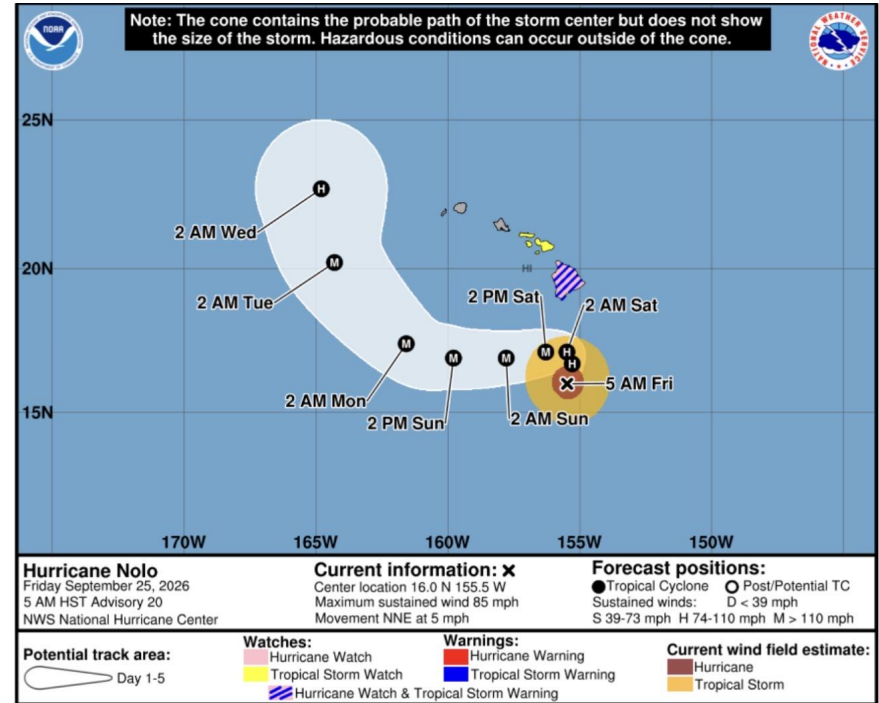
- Sept. 24-25 (Thursday, Friday): Hawai'i County schools were closed due to anticipated severe weather.
- Sept. 25 (Friday): Maui County schools were closed.
- Sept. 28 (Monday): Four West Maui schools remained closed an additional day.

Repair and maintenance

- Hurricane Nolo did not cause significant structural damage to campuses.
- Repair and maintenance cost assessments are underway.

Response and recovery

- West Maui conditions monitored in coordination with county emergency management officials and utility providers to determine school reopenings.



A Sept. 25 advisory from the National Weather Service showed Hawai'i Island under a simultaneous hurricane watch and tropical storm warning, and Maui County under a tropical storm watch as Hurricane Nolo neared the state.



SECTION

B

**Awards and Recognitions for
Students, Employees and/or
Schools**

2027 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year

Chu Hong, Kaimukī High



Chu Hong was named the 2027 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.

Kaimukī High School's Chu Hong was named 2027 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year at an event on Sept. 21 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

Hong was selected from among 15 Complex Area Teachers of the Year and the Public Charter School Teacher of the Year, representing more than 13,000 educators statewide.

First high school MEERA manufacturing lab



Mililani High students and teachers at the MEERA lab opening.



The lab is equipped with high-powered computers, 3D printers and other technology. Courtesy: Ku'i Hao.

Mililani High School is now home to the nation's first high school MEERA lab, bringing hands-on, industry-relevant manufacturing education directly to students. The lab gives students opportunities to build technical skills, explore advanced manufacturing and skilled trades, and connect with high-demand career pathways in Hawai'i.

Ku'i Hao, a strategic workforce initiative building Hawai'i's skilled trades pipeline to support advanced manufacturing and national security needs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of War Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment program, TECHnista and the HIDEOE celebrated the opening of the lab on Sept. 11.



Extra Yard for Teachers

Hi'ipoi Lee, Kapālama Elementary



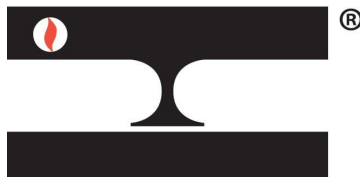
Hi'ipoi Lee and students celebrate the win.

Kapālama Elementary School teacher Hi'ipoi Lee was surprised with a \$1,000 classroom grant through the College Football Playoff Foundation's "Extra Yard for Teachers" program.

Lee is a third-grade teacher and grade-level chair who started her education career through Teach for America Hawai'i.



2027 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists



Ansel Bliemeister
Henry J. Kaiser High

Maximus Cho
Henry J. Kaiser High

Mace K. Kawamoto
Pearl City High

Mu Seong Kim
Kalani High

Elaena Kissel
James Campbell High

Noah Ling
Kalāheo High

Keilani Kajiyama Moss
Kahuku High & Intermediate

Kensei Narahara
Henry J. Kaiser High

Cathy Tran
Kalani High

