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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ACADEMICS

November 12, 2026

TO: The Honorable William Arakaki
Chairperson, Student Achievement Committee

FROM: Heidi Armstrong
Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: Department of Education presentation on academic system coherence

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hawaiʻi State Department of Education (Department) will present its efforts to strengthen academic coherence across the system through an integrated approach to continuous improvement. The presentation will emphasize strengthening implementation, refining monitoring practices, and ensuring that established priorities, structures, and resources are aligned to support student success.

2. DESCRIPTION

The presentation provides an overview of the Department's efforts to strengthen academic coherence across the system in support of improved and equitable outcomes for all students. The focus is not on introducing additional initiatives, but on strengthening the alignment, implementation, and monitoring of the structures and supports already in place and to elevate the distinction between having the right structures in place and knowing how well those structures are working. The presentation highlights moving beyond established structures to evaluating their efficacy and tangible impact on student achievement through a process of continuous improvement.

3. PRESENTATION

The Department will provide an update on its efforts to strengthen academic coherence through a systemwide approach to continuous improvement.

Key components of the presentation:

- The Department has established foundational strategies, priority initiatives, and academic programs designed to support student achievement and continuous school improvement. The current focus is not on introducing additional initiatives, but on strengthening the alignment, implementation, and monitoring of the structures and supports already in place.

- Despite sustained investments and efforts over several decades, student achievement has experienced periods of growth and decline. This underscores the importance of moving beyond the establishment of programs and initiatives to more intentionally monitor their implementation, assess their effectiveness, and make informed adjustments to improve outcomes.

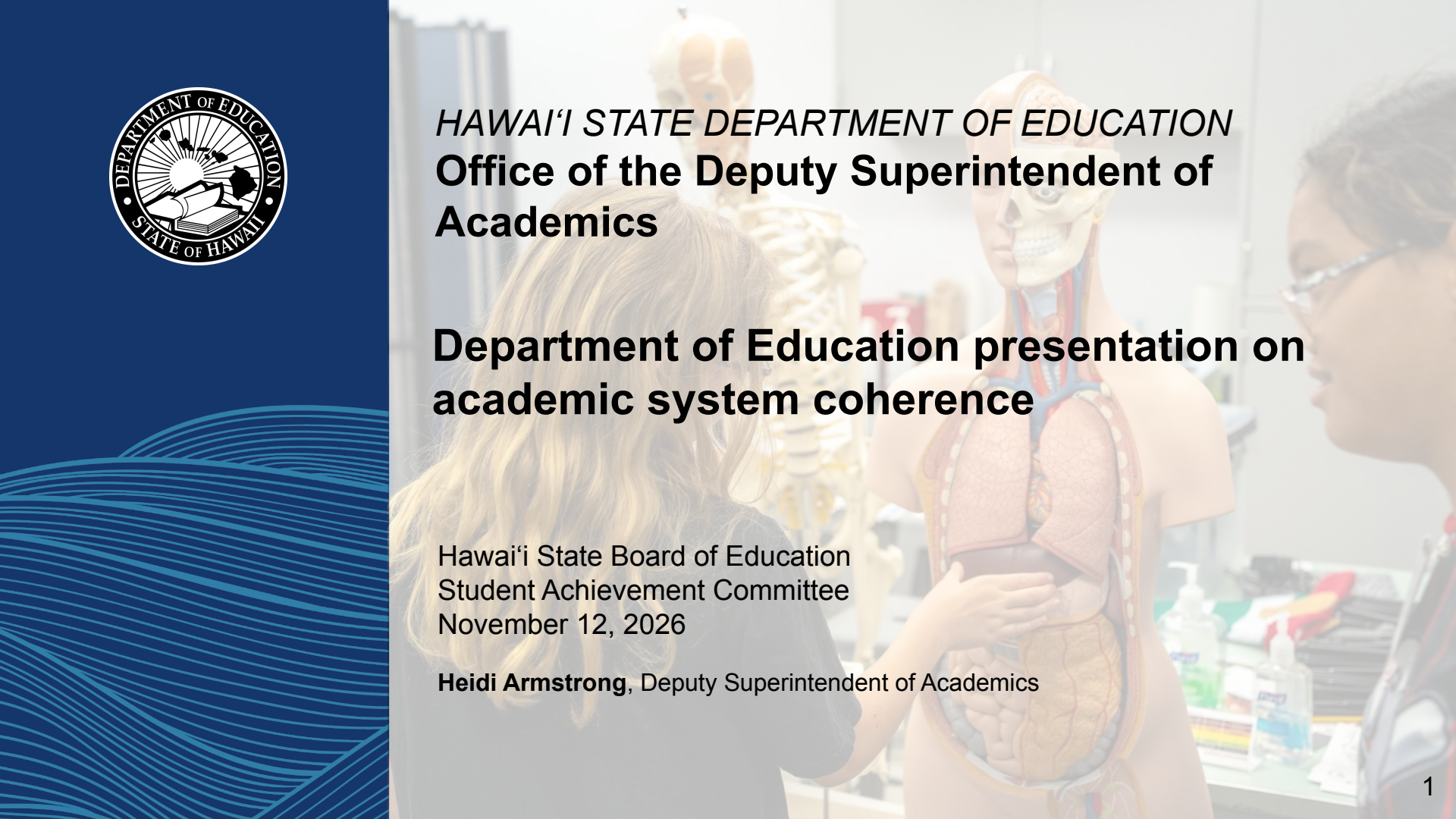
- The Department's approach centers on establishing consistent conditions for school improvement across the system, regardless of the specific improvement framework or strategies employed by individual schools. The Department's foundational strategies and priority initiatives, together with its academic work in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Special Education, are intended to work collectively within these conditions to strengthen school improvement and maximize student success.

- The Department seeks to strengthen coherence across its integrated and aligned system by ensuring that established commitments are implemented effectively, monitored consistently, and continuously refined. Through this approach, the Department aims to sustain a positive trajectory toward excellent and equitable outcomes for all students.

- The presentation will provide a visual representation of how the Department's foundational structures, academic priorities, and systemwide supports work together as an integrated approach to continuous improvement and student success.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the Department's efforts to strengthen alignment and academic coherence across the system.

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Attachment



HAWAIʻI STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Academics

Department of Education presentation on academic system coherence

Hawaiʻi State Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee
November 12, 2026

Heidi Armstrong, Deputy Superintendent of Academics

ACADEMIC SYSTEM COHERENCE

When system conditions are strengthened through continuous learning and improvement, educators adjust practice and students thrive.

WHAT

Essential System Conditions

Department Direction, Priorities and Supports

Leadership for Continuous Improvement

Leadership Competencies

Vision of a Hawai'i Public School Graduate

Talent Development and Capacity Building

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Leadership Capacity

Data-Driven Decision-Making

Action-Oriented, Data-Driven Decision-Making

Hawai'i Multi-Tiered System of Support

Vulnerable Populations

Instructional Coherence and Support

Effective Academic Practices

K-12 Alignment

Language Arts Levers

Math Levers

Special Education Levers

English Learner Success Initiative

Workforce Readiness

Middle Level

Extended Learning Opportunities

Culture, Well-Being and Engagement

Family Engagement

Social-Emotional Learning

Attendance

Nā Hopena A'o

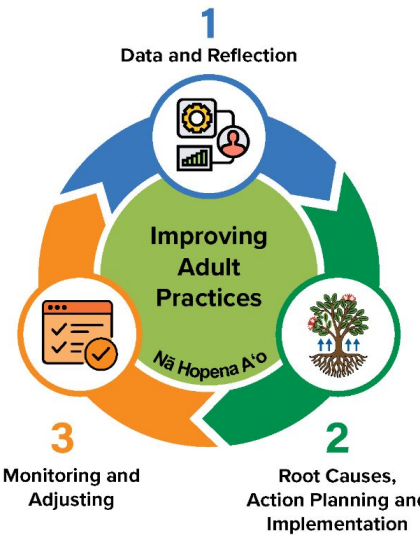
Student Voice

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HOW

Continuous Learning and Improvement Process

Within the Essential System Conditions



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WHY

Excellent, Equitable Outcomes for Every Student

Realizing the Vision of a Hawai'i Public School Graduate

Strategic Plan Priority I, Goal 1.1: High-Quality Learning for All

Focus on rigorous curriculum, academic growth and equitable student outcomes.

Strategic Plan Priority I, Goal 1.2: Safe, Nurturing and Culturally Responsive Environments

Create culturally responsive environments for attendance and positive behaviors.

Strategic Plan Priority I, Goal 1.3: Prepared Graduates

Ensure students are equipped for college, career and civic engagement.

October, 2026
Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Academics

Essential System Conditions

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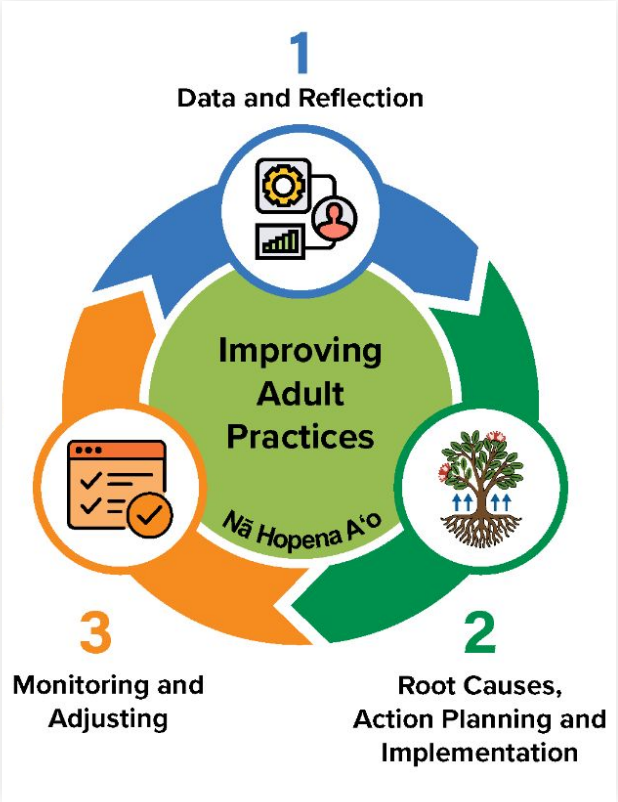
Extended Learning Opportunities

Culture, Well-Being and Engagement

Family Engagement
Social-Emotional Learning
Attendance
Nā Hopena A‘o
Student Voice

Continuous Learning and Improvement Process

Within the Essential System Conditions



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Kaimukī High School


‘Ewa Makai Middle


Waipahu Intermediate


Honoka‘a Intermediate

MAHALO


Lāna‘i High


President Theodore Roosevelt High


Mauka Lani Elementary