



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
WEST HAWAII COMPLEX AREA OFFICE
75-140 HUALALAI ROAD
KAILUA KONA, HAWAII 96740-3723

February 21, 2018

Dear Hawai'i District Families,

The safety and security of our schools cannot be understated. When we received word of threats to Keaau High, Konawaena High and Pahoa High, the Hawai'i Police Department (HPD) was immediately notified. HPD has advised that there is no imminent threat to these campuses; however, out of an abundance of caution additional security measures were implemented including having HPD officers at multiple schools.

While the threat was made to three of our schools, our entire island was affected. We commend our school leaders for taking precautions and working with each other in sharing information to ensure safety measures across all complex schools. Our teachers also played a pivotal role in ensuring learning took place despite the distraction of events.

All threats to our schools or students are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly. Terroristic threats are considered Class A student conduct offenses. Penalties can range from detention to dismissal with the possibility of arrest and serious criminal charges. We wanted you to have the facts so you can discuss them with your child and emphasize the seriousness of this issue. We also encourage you to review the letter sent by Superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto on February 16, 2018: <http://bit.ly/HIDOEParentLetter>.

School and student safety is a responsibility for all involved - administrators, staff, teachers, students, families, law enforcement and the broader community. As always, should your child need someone to talk to about recent events that may cause emotional stress, please consult with a school counselor.

Thank you for your support of our schools. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to call your school principal.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur F. Souza in black ink.

Arthur F. Souza
Complex Area Superintendent

Handwritten signature of Chad K. Farias in black ink.

Chad K. Farias
Complex Area Superintendent