



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 6, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope your 'ohana enjoyed the summer break and that your child is eager and ready for the 2018-19 school year.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education remains fully committed to ensuring access across our public school system to a quality education that prepares all students for college, careers and community life.

One of our strategies to ensure this equity and access is *School Design* — the purposeful design of schools to ensure that every student is highly engaged in a rigorous, creative and innovative academic curriculum; their learning environment; and in powerful applied learning practices aligned to college and careers.

Our schools are creating, implementing or improving their student-centered designs in collaboration with their school communities, and are engaging student voice.

With this work underway, we want to be sure our students take advantage of every learning opportunity and enjoy their educational experience. This requires that students be in school — on time, every day.

Attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Students can fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.

Students who are chronically absent, those missing 15 or more days in a school year, miss out on meaningful academic growth. I need you to be a partner with me in making education your child's No. 1 priority.

We encourage families to build a habit and culture of attendance and engagement in learning, recognizing the importance of students being designers of their own future.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CK", representing Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto.

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto  
Superintendent