



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Over the summer we celebrated the achievements of the class of 2016 and worked hard to prepare for this school year. From leadership conferences to continued work on updating our Strategic Plan, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) remains committed to positively impacting the direction of education for all students.

HIDOE and the Board of Education (BOE) are also developing a state plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the major federal K-12 education law. ESSA is a welcome change from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in providing additional flexibility. We are taking advantage of this flexibility by using our state's Strategic Plan for education to guide the preparation of the state's ESSA plan for federal funding.

The Strategic Plan review and extension process is informed by our schools' and educators' innovations and progress from the last few years, ideas from more than 2,500 community members – including teachers, students, leaders, and parents – who participated in 108 focus groups and over 1,400 surveys, research, best practices, and the Governor's ESSA Task Force. The Strategic Plan revisions will build upon schools' successes and identify innovative solutions to support a high quality education for all of our students and educators.

The revised Strategic Plan is due to the BOE on December 6, 2016 and will inform the BOE and HIDOE's priorities for action and resources in the next few years, including our state's ESSA plan to receive federal funds and next school year's academic and financial plans.

This fall, HIDOE and BOE will continue to share updates and seek feedback about the strategic plan review and the state's ESSA plan for federal funding.

We invite you to stay informed about upcoming BOE Community Meetings and the latest HIDOE news at [HawaiiPublicSchools.org](http://HawaiiPublicSchools.org), where you can subscribe to our e-newsletters.

Mahalo for your support of public education and have a wonderful school year!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matayoshi".

Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
Superintendent

KSM:gc