### 2014: A Year in the Life of Hawaii's Educational Journey

**Staff Intranet launches,** creating secured, centralized resources and communications for employees. Nearly 600,000 pageviews hit in 2014.

**In the AP Report to the Nation,** Hawaii makes across-the-board gains in the number of students taking Advanced Placement exams, total exams taken, and scores that qualify students for college credit.

**Education Secretary Arne Duncan** visits Hawaii schools, praises state’s “extraordinary” progress.

**Kalakaua Middle science teacher Michelle Kay** (left) wins the prestigious Milken Educator Award, $25,000.

**Launch of Ka Hei** to drive clean energy generation, boost energy efficiency & STEM education at schools.

*“If can, can. If no can, how can?”* — retiring Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Supt. Mary Correa

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**U.S. Department of Education** releases report that shows the **graduation rate** for the nation topping 80% for the first time; Hawaii edges that at 81%.

**Waipahu High’s Keith Hayashi** and Millani Middle’s Elynne Chung are named Hawaii’s 2015 Principals of the Year.

**College-readiness on the rise:** Hawaii P-20 report shows more students enrolling in dual-credit courses, fewer needing remediation.

**Chronic absenteeism plummets** in Hawaii’s elementary schools — top finding of the DOE’s 2nd annual Strive HI Performance System results.

**Monica DeCosta,** Kahalu'u Elementary (below), named DOE **Employee of the Year,** later State Employee of the Year. Also, Washington’s AVID team named DOE Team of the Year; Thomas Rodrigues, Aiea High, Manager of the Year.

**Hawaii finishes work for the Race to the Top grant,** the only winner to do so on time.

**Puna Lava Flow** forces closure of Keonepoko Elementary, relocation of 1,700 students and 300 staff in Keaau and Pahoa Complexes. In record time, the DOE successfully builds and opens “Keonepoko North” on the campus of Keaau High.

**Catherine Caine,** above right, becomes second consecutive teacher from Waikiki Elementary chosen as the **State Teacher of the Year.** Caine is a national board certified educator who challenges students to address real-life issues through hands-on lessons.

**46 DOE teachers are among 59** Hawaii teachers to receive National Board Certification this year — considered the highest mark of accomplishment in the profession.