The current health crisis has revamped how we operate as a public school system serving students across the state. As students are kept at the forefront of our response efforts, we want to ensure employees are informed. We strive to provide helpful resources for professional and personal well-being along with highlighting bright spots and accomplishments along the way. Please keep an eye out for this weekly digital update.

What we accomplished this week

» As we graduate 11,000 public school students this month, we look forward to welcoming our new students. A new online registration system is available to enroll students for the upcoming school year. The system allows for the enrollment of new students who were not enrolled at a public or charter school during the 2019-20 school year. Visit bit.ly/HIDOE-enroll for more information and step-by-step instructions.

» Due to the abrupt closure of school facilities, refunds are being provided for services that were prepaid and not received for transportation and after-school programming. Parents and legal guardians will receive a prorated tuition refund for March for A+ programs (refunds were calculated based on the extended spring break and two school closure days in March). Refund amount information and the refund request form is available online, and should be submitted to the appropriate site coordinator or private provider to initiate the refund process.

» Our special social media series featuring celebrities giving exclusive shoutouts to HIDOE’s graduating class of 2020 is still running. This week’s celebrities include Hawaii Five-0 star Alex O’Loughlin, big-wave surfer Ian Walsh – King Kekaulike High’s class of 2001 valedictorian – and social media comedian Zavier “Bradda Z” Cummings. More shoutouts are in the pipeline!

What’s in the works

» The date for the annual Educational Leadership Institute Conference (ELI) remains the same – July 21, 2020 – but the format has been adjusted to a live virtual event in light of our current situation. See announcement here.

» The deadline for the COVID Awareness Challenge student video competition has been extended to May 21! The Hawaii Tourism Authority, the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association and other community partners are sponsoring the competition for graduating seniors with a lucrative prize for the winning school. The COVID Awareness Challenge is open to any public school senior, or groups of seniors, to create a 30-second, COVID-related PSA for a chance to be featured on TV and radio. A $10,000 grand prize will go to the school of the winning entry. Additional details here.

Important updates and reminders from HIDOE offices
Beginning with the June 5, 2020 pay date, there will be a **new leave balance section on all pay statements**. That section will **not** have values for HIDOE employees until early 2021, when the Department transitions to the new Time and Leave system in HIP (Hawaii Information Portal). See [May 6 memo](#) for more details.

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### OCID

**Online courses for acceleration or course replacement** are available for interested students. The Department has a contract that allows schools to use the program for $25/student license. OCID can provide Acellus Learning Accelerator accounts to interested schools. For more information and to purchase licenses, click [here](#).

To support teachers and students during the school closure **Swank K12 Streaming**, a movie library that allows teachers and students to legally stream films, is available until June 30. To get started, download and review the Streaming Teacher Guide [here](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, please email Joanna Dunn at joanna.dunn@k12.hi.us.

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### OSIP

**Updates and guidance** have been provided to support **School Community Councils (SCC)** needing to complete required end-of-year tasks including the SCC Self Assessment Survey, Principal Survey and SCC Assurances form.

Complex area superintendents and principals were emailed instructions and files for submitting **School Status and Improvement Report updates**, which are due by June 15. For more information, click [here](#).
The Student Transportation Services Branch (STSB) reminds teachers on all islands to remit their 2020-21 **curb-to-curb transportation requirements** in eCSSS before the end of May. Although the future remains uncertain, STSB wants to be prepared for an eventual ramp up of schools reopening. Please contact your local District Transportation Officer for more information.

The Office of Fiscal Services will begin to initiate the verification and review process for fringe pay, which includes **overtime**, **extra hours worked**, **temporary assignment (TA)**, and **night or other differential pay**, with the first payments to be reflected on the July 5 paycheck. Due to the volume of fringe payments, payments will be processed on a first in, first paid basis.

Online Registration training via Webex is still available for school enrollment staff who may register on PDE3 until May 18.

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** provides employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. Read the Department-issued memo for additional details on how to make the request. Paid leave form can be accessed here.

These are stressful times. The **Employee Assistance Program** is available to help all Department employees by providing confidential, short-term professional counseling services, free of charge for up to three hours.

HIDOE state offices will **host summer internship opportunities** for our soon-to-be-graduating seniors. State offices offer a great opportunity for students to experience the world of work while earning a modest income for families negatively impacted by the pandemic. Up to 30 summer interns will be funded through external business partners. More information on how students can apply will be forthcoming soon.
Supt's Corner

» We closed out the first season of Talk Story with a special message to the HIDOE ‘ohana from Dr. K. These are extraordinary times, and the innovation and resilience you’ve exhibited has been an inspiration. We’ve never been more #PublicSchoolProud than we are today.

All students need digital connectivity

By Christina M. Kishimoto

It’s easy to forget the lessons learned during a crisis once the threat subsides and the desire to return to normal prevails. Will we emerge from COVID-19 ready, willing and able to innovate in new ways for our students and communities? I remember the oil crisis of the 1970s, when lines for gas stretched for blocks and drivers negotiated with each other for a cup of fuel to get their families home. The public cried out, “Never again!” and demanded smaller, more gas-efficient cars.

But look around today. Even on our small Hawaiian islands large, gas-guzzling vehicles with just a passenger or further at risk. This pandemic created conditions for us as an organization to embrace innovation and empowerment faster. The complexity of teaching and leading in this unprecedented time fostered internal collaborations that pushed our collective thinking. I am proud that we entered this pandemic with one instructional design and emerged with a broadened design for online and blended learning.

Despite the challenges that come with social distancing and tele-teaching, our teachers have been learning showcases and regular check-ins via video conference. Students who live in neighborhoods with poor or no connectivity, or whose families cannot afford it, unfortunately are missing out and will continue to be at a learning disadvantage. This is the time to step up and deliver on a digital engagement approach that will advance our equity agenda. Not addressing this challenge now drives a deeper wedge between the haves and have-nots in our state. The good news is this is fixable.

Christina M. Kishimoto is superintendent of Hawaii’s Department of Education.

» In case you missed it, a commentary piece by Superintendent Kishimoto ran in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, in which she writes about providing quality education and student education designed around digital inclusion.
Stay healthy! A roundup of well-being tips, resources and shoutouts

- Kanoelani Elementary teacher Ashley Mika Ho (@MissHOinHI) and Roosevelt High teacher Derek Govin (@derekgovin) were featured as standout teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week (KHON2).
- Iroquois Point Elementary teachers caravan to check in on students (Honolulu Star-Advertiser).

Social media highlights

Amid this crisis the HIDOE ‘ohana has been using social media to connect, inspire, educate and uplift one another and the broader community. Please continue sharing your stories, tips and humor using #HI4PublicEd and #PublicSchoolProud.

- @AinaHainaSchool students take action with messages of gratitude and encouragement for essential workers and their community.
- @highlandscolts (Highlands Inter) #HISVirtualSpiritWeek 2 is Pet Day! So fun to see all the furry and not-so-furry friends both teachers and students have at home ;) #virtualspiritweek
- @IlimaSchool’s Rainbow Royales have been named the @GLSEN 2020 GSA of the Year out of 8,000 nationally registered Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs in middle and high schools.

Catch up on Ho‘oha‘aheo – inspiring stories from our schools, districts and offices, profiling the students, staff and leaders who are building success and strong school communities, and the community members and organizations that help them do it.