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

Congratulations, class of 2020!

» The Department announced summer learning will be delivered through multiple platforms beginning next month, including distance learning, in-person and mobile support for students and families. “The focus of our programs over the next two months is targeted toward our high-need and hard-to-reach students, with added opportunities for credit advancement for our secondary students,” Superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto said. “We are also assessing where we can expand on system and school design models that allow for continued distance learning opportunities into the fall including the permanent expansion of E-School programs and community-centric mobile learning labs.” Learn more here and view a one-pager here.

» Part of our summer offerings will include four pilot mobile learning labs that will provide WiFi access to assist students who were not fully proficient at the end of the 2019-20 school year toward advancement to their next grade level. Pilot locations will focus on rural communities including Ka’u on Hawaii Island, Hāna on Maui, Molokai and Kauai, where connectivity and access are a challenge. The goal of this pilot is to transition into permanent micro learning hubs in the fall. This school design concept pushes student engagement into the communities and serves as hubs where authentic project-based learning, hands-on sustainability lessons, and applied arts can take place, while expanding WiFi access.

» The Department has procured 10,000 devices to help make connectivity universal and ensure that any student who wants to engage in summer learning but may not have access to a device at home can take advantage of summer learning opportunities. Stay tuned for more details.

» We’ve launched a multi-phase distance learning survey for teachers, secondary students and families to learn more about the progression of distance learning and areas of need across the state. Surveys were distributed this week to all HIDOE teachers and to eligible secondary students. The family survey will be available in early June. Survey results will inform the Department of needed training, resources and support as schools plan for reopening.
What's in the works

» Several of our high schools held their modified commencement ceremonies over the past week, including Campbell, Mililani, Roosevelt, Aiea, Kahuku, Baldwin, King Kekaulike and Maui High schools. Schools worked hard to honor and celebrate graduates with thoughtful programs that included virtual ceremonies combined with drive-through diploma pickups and photo opportunities that aligned with health and safety guidelines. More graduations are coming up. Check here for the full schedule.

» Our social media series featuring celebrities giving exclusive shoutouts to HIDOE's graduating class of 2020 continues. This week’s celebrities include social media superstar and Waiakea High alum Ryan Higa; Kahuku High & Intermediate alum and social media standout Pashyn Santos; singer-songwriter Jack Johnson (another Kahuku alum!); and educator Maya Soetoro-Ng, President Barack Obama's sister. More to come!

» HIDOE 2020 graduates are invited to sign up for Next Steps: Career Exploration classes at one of the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges this summer — it’s free and online. Sign up by May 28 for the next class beginning on June 8. In this class, high school graduates can explore their career options and discover the education and training needed to reach their goals. Participating students will earn credit toward a college degree and may have opportunities to earn additional scholarships.

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.

OCID

The Schools of the Future planning committee is pleased to announce SOTF Reimagined! Given the ongoing uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 situation, the 2020 conference will be virtual. The dates have been changed to Oct. 29 and 30. For more information and to register for the conference, click here.

OSSS

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth office will pilot the YES Project on Oahu. The program will launch in mid-June with a bus that will travel to each district on Oahu once a week: Honolulu, Central, Leeward and Windward. This initiative will engage hard-to-reach students and families, provide basic necessities such as food and hygiene supplies, and deliver fun educational activities. It is meant to assess needs, gather data and serve as a bridge between schools and communities.

OSIP

Principals and complex area superintendents can monitor distance learning survey response rates from their Panorama dashboards to help encourage participation. This feedback is valuable as the Department plans for the new school year. The deadline for both surveys is May 29, 2020. For questions, please contact Teri Ushijima at teri.ushijima@k12.hi.us.

Please continue to help promote the secondary student survey to middle and high school students. This flyer can be shared electronically or can be printed and distributed at Grab-and-Go sites or with paper learning packets.

HIDOE has received a grant under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund of the CARES Act to address our needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is for $43 million and will be used to address distance learning, summer learning, and the reopening of schools.
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.

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### FAQs answered by Dr. K.

**Q:** How will the Department provide summer learning opportunities that all students can take advantage of — regardless of whether or not they have a device, Internet access or the ability to engage via distance learning?

**A:** I'm proud of the work of our tri-level leadership team and state offices for developing a menu of summer options that is much broader in scope and reach than in past years.

Summer learning will be delivered primarily through distance learning in keeping with health and safety guidelines. But we are excited about being able to provide some in-person offerings in light of Gov. David Ige's latest emergency proclamation that relaxes some of the restrictions. In-person opportunities will be targeted toward our high-need and hard-to-reach students, for whom distance learning either doesn't work or is not effective.

We have more than 2,000 students with an Individualized Education Program, or IEP, who are eligible for what's known as ESY, or extended school year. Where appropriate, schools will be providing services this summer that may include occupational therapy or behavioral therapy. We also have students who have faced significant challenges during the fourth quarter with no or poor Internet connectivity. These students will have opportunities for in-person summer learning. Any in-person learning will be limited to small groups.

We are also excited about launching mobile learning hubs this summer that will be deployed in some of our rural communities to provide WiFi access and deliver instructional opportunities (see Accomplishments above). And on Oahu, we'll be delivering instruction alongside basic services for our students in unstable housing situations with our pilot YES Project featuring a traveling bus that will engage hard-to-reach students and families, provide basic necessities such as food and hygiene supplies, and deliver fun educational activities.
Stay healthy! A roundup of well-being tips, resources and shoutouts

- In observance of Mental Health Month this month, Mental Health America’s theme of Tools 2 Thrive provides practical tools that everyone can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency regardless of the situations they are dealing with (Mental Health America).

- HIDOE students and families have access to a free health hotline and telehealth service provided by the Hawai‘i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. [bit.ly/HIDOEtelehealth]

- How 10 Hawaii seniors cope with graduation from a distance (Star-Advertiser).

- 8 dessert and comfort food recipes to make when you are stuck at home (Crave by the 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.

@HIDOE808_DrK congratulates Campbell’s seniors: Beautiful! James Campbell High students are now officially 2020 graduates!

Families are finding creative ways to celebrate their graduates! Check out these cars from @MililaniTrojans graduation this afternoon!

Congrats @RoughRidersRHS Class of 2020! Although it’s modified, today is your day to be recognized for completing your high school journey! All hail, hail, hail!

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.

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