



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE
4967 KILAUEA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

September 28, 2020

Dear Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB) teachers, staff, students and families,

I want to thank you for your continued patience, hard work and cooperation through the first quarter. As HSDB began the school year with *in-person instruction*, our commitment to serve our students by providing them the safest possible educational experience remains our highest priority. Thus, we also provided *Learning from Home* opportunities to meet the needs of our students and families.

Recently, Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) Superintendent, Dr. Christina Kishimoto, announced that schools will use newly released guidance from the Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) to develop appropriate learning models moving into the second quarter and beyond. Our complex area will also consider the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making, Governor's Reopening Status, the Mayor's Four-Tier Framework, and input from our school communities as part of our decision-making process. While we continue to closely monitor COVID-19 activity to ensure a safe and successful transition into the second quarter, we would like to continue to invite all of our HSDB students back to campus.

Our HSDB school team continues to meet with the faculty and staff to plan for our students, while being mindful of current COVID-19 case counts, positivity rates, health and safety guidelines, mitigation strategies, facilities, and workforce capacity. All school health and safety protocols will align to CDC, HDOH, HIDOE, and the Board of Education's expectations.

We appreciate your support as we navigate through these uncertain times. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact HSDB at #808-733-4999.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rochelle Mahoe".

Rochelle Mahoe, Ph.D.
Complex Area Superintendent
Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area

Kinau Gardner
Principal
Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind