



# Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | JULY 2016

## COOLING CLASSROOMS

### End-of-year goal delayed, but project rebidding, installation moving forward

From Asst. Supt. Dann Carlson, Office of School Facilities and Support Services:

Record temperatures are on its way and in anticipation, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) is doing all it can to cool classrooms.



Gov. David Ige, the Legislature and community members have helped in this endeavor and the Department is very grateful. Although HIDOE has a heat abatement program to cool school environments, our efforts went into overdrive following the \$100 million request to cool 1,000 classrooms.

At the end of January, we started plans to accomplish the goal of 1,000 classrooms by the end of 2016, and more than 3,000 contractors were contacted to prequalify so they could start as soon as the Legislature approved funding.

Professional contractors must do AC installation in our schools. Contractors also must be cleared to do work around our students and staff (possess good safety records and have experience working in occupied buildings).

The front work done to ensure qualified contractors did not pay off as planned — we had far fewer than hoped for. (Last month, we reopened the process to expand the pool.)

We started to put the projects

#### FAQS

##### Why can't an electrician just install the systems?

The work that subcontractors (such as electricians) can do is regulated by state and federal laws. For a project to install PVAC, the law requires that each component — the PV system, the electrical wiring, and the AC system — be installed by different subcontractors. In addition, for any project that involves more than two trades, state law requires that HIDOE work with general contractors possessing either an 'A' or 'B' license.

**Are the AC and battery systems oversized?** No, on the contrary, they follow the same guidelines as other typical AC installations, and are based on the same requirements set by various codes and regulations. The only differences are that the power comes from the sun, and there is battery backup for periods when the sun is not providing enough power. Also, these systems will take advantage of passive cooling measures that deflect some of the heat, thus allowing the system to work efficiently.

##### Are the specs for the projects unnecessarily complex?

Most specifications are required for legal and/or regulatory reasons. For example, the largest part of a project spec is typically the asbestos reports, a federal requirement under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Others describe performance requirements for materials and equipment, and are used to establish a minimum level of quality. Most contractors who bid on government work are familiar with the requirements and structure of our bid packages and focus on sections that pertain to their work.

out to bid on the same day, May 5, that the governor signed Act 47 appropriating the funds. However, the construction boom has led to higher pay and a shortage of skilled laborers and job delays.

The cost of the AC equipment is roughly in line with what we expected but the cost of labor is extremely high. For example, one bid had the overall cost of PVAC per classroom at \$135,000, when initial estimates from the

industry were about \$20,000. Prices like that would prohibit us from reaching our target; hence, we are pushing back the construction to solicit more bids and lower the cost. Under the circumstances, we expect a delay in cooling 1,000 classrooms by Dec. 31, 2016.

While we're disappointed with this, we're committed to our ongoing heat abatement efforts and will push for better prices so that we can cool more classrooms, not fewer.

## STRIVE HI Opportunities

### EDUCATORS

4th grade teachers can apply for **Veggie U's** classroom garden kits and curriculum. Veggie U is dedicated to increasing children's awareness of healthy food options, and teaching them how real food reaches their plate. The national non-profit supplies classroom gardens and a standards based, five-week science program. Register by July 15: [hawaiiagfoundation.org/blog/content/veggie-u-signup-form-fall-2016-2017](http://hawaiiagfoundation.org/blog/content/veggie-u-signup-form-fall-2016-2017)

**Toshiba America Foundation** accepts applications from teachers of grades 6-12 who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students. Requests less than \$5,000 accepted throughout the year, requests above \$5,000 accepted and reviewed twice a year, next deadline is Aug. 1. Apply: [www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp](http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp)

### SCHOOLS

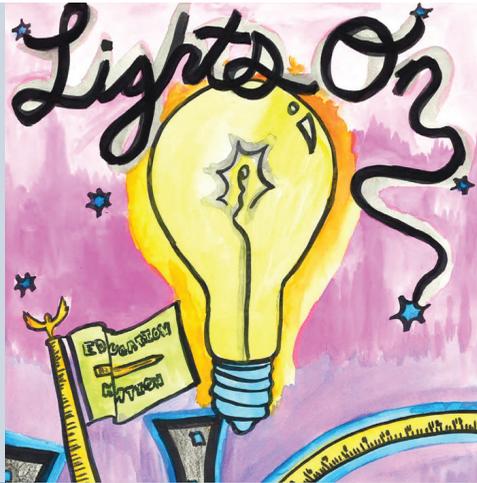
The **Verizon Mobile Learning Academy** is free for select K-12 schools that are committed to reshaping education. This 10-week course, designed for teams (1 admin, 1 tech coach, 3-8 teachers), will help you create lessons and activities for mobile learning, put mobile devices and apps to the best and most appropriate use for students, and develop a collaborative schoolwide implementation plan. Next session starts Aug. 1. Details: [www.iste.org/resources/online-learning/verizon-mobile-learning-academy](http://www.iste.org/resources/online-learning/verizon-mobile-learning-academy)

## Don't Miss This! EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF

JUL 8

### GRAD-LEVEL RESEARCH

Waipahu High is hosting its 2nd Annual **Biotechnology Science Scholars Summer Program Symposium** showcasing students' summertime research during the five-week program, which has access to Rutgers University's DNA Sequencing Analysis Program among other resources. Students from Campbell and Kapolei High schools also participated. To be held at Waipahu High, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call 368-5020 to RSVP.



««« JUL 15

### NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

Summer is here! Why not use the spare time to design a piece of artwork that could be published across the world? Afterschool or summer learning program participants are encouraged to design, craft and submit work that celebrates the opportunities made possible by out-of-school time programs to the 2016 **Lights On Afterschool** poster contest. Learn more and access submission guidelines: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm)

2016 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

### 3 HAWAII SCHOOLS NOMINATED

Congratulations to **Helemano, Momilani** and **Noelani** elementary schools — nominees for the national Blue Ribbon Schools program which recognizes exceptional schools for overall academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The U.S. Department of Education will announce winners in the fall. Learn more: [www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs)

AUG 1

### BACK TO SCHOOL KICKS OFF

School Year 2016-17 officially begins for students (minus multitrack schools). Teachers return July 26.



AUG 31

### REWARDS PROGRAM

Educational Officers can submit nominations to the **SY 2015-16 Rewards and Recognition Program** for EOs. Review the program, selection criteria and nomination procedures in the DOE Memo dated May 5. We're seeking nominees who build positive relationships and culture, model integrity and high ethical standards, set a professional tone, enable collaboration and cooperation, and improve leadership practice, among other qualities.

## Supt.'s Corner



This spring, HIDOE led an intensive effort to review our students' progress and engage our community in defining student success and reflecting on lessons learned to inform our review and extension of the Strategic Plan for public education and our state's plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

In Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan process, more than 1,400 educators, students and community members completed an online survey, and more than 1,100 participants shared their mana'o at 108 diverse focus groups statewide. We've also met with our principals to discuss ESSA.

Several themes emerged from the feedback on the Strategic Plan

including the importance of:

- a well-rounded education that considers the "whole child" and personalizes learning for students based on their aspirations and strengths,
- high quality, rigorous hands-on learning opportunities that have real-world applications,
- valuing Hawai'i's unique strengths and assets, and
- coordination of community partners and resources to support innovation and clear goals for student success.

A full report of the findings of the Strategic Plan survey and focus groups will be shared in August. Join our social media campaign, #HIQualityEd, which is ongoing.

### ONLINE

- [bit.ly/DOEBOEstratplan](http://bit.ly/DOEBOEstratplan)
- [bit.ly/HIDOE-ESSAfaqs](http://bit.ly/HIDOE-ESSAfaqs)

Our Strategic Plan addresses all aspects of Hawai'i's public school system. ESSA is an important support for achieving our Strategic Plan objectives but also comes with important and sometimes stringent requirements. Title I is the largest ESSA program, with about \$50 million to support Hawai'i's economically challenged students — it requires testing statewide in many grades, reporting of test results for students, rating schools' performance, and identification of low performing schools.

Our Strategic Plan will guide our ESSA planning to ensure that our state take advantage of the law's intent for increased state-driven flexibility while focusing on achieving Hawai'i's goals.

HIDOE is analyzing the emerging ESSA regulations and participating in the national conversation about opportunities and requirements. We are working with the Board of Education, the Governor's ESSA task force and our congressional delegation to ensure Hawai'i's voice is heard on how the emerging regulations appear to tie our hands and inhibit the promised flexibility of the law.

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