Solve global sustainability challenges at Students’ Day

Hawai‘i is welcoming the world Sept. 1-10 for the World Conservation Congress (WCC), a global gathering held every four years by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The theme this year is “Planet at the Crossroads,” a nod to two competing narratives about the planet’s ecological future: one optimistic, one pessimistic.

A viable alternative to this either-or approach is one that embraces reality — one that acknowledges that we live in a world of complex, interdependent systems, and changes to these systems can either enhance resilience or result in greater instability and uncertainty.

Middle and high school students are invited to participate in a day of design thinking on Sept. 6 at the Honolulu Convention Center.

Students will create sustainable projects and environmental solutions for their schools and communities. The goal is to have Hawai‘i students generate thousands of creative and innovative solutions during this experience.

Deadline to register is Aug. 19.

Advisory on heat safety for schools, families

With the new school year beginning, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) reminds schools and parents about health guidance on preventing heat illness in children. Letters from HIDOE and the Department of Health will be sent home to parents providing health tips, and heat-related guidelines are posted in classrooms and school offices (bit.ly/HIDOE-HeatHealth).

HIDOE’s heat abatement efforts have resulted in more than 400 portable classrooms with heat reflective materials, 139 classrooms installed with ceiling fans, 109 classrooms equipped with portable ACs, and electrical system upgrades at schools across the state.

Work towards the Governor’s goal of installing air conditioning units in 1,000 classrooms is ongoing. Learn more: https://intranet.hawaiipublicschools.org/Lists/Opportunities.

‘ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai‘i, and promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demos in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities. Curriculum training for K-6 educators begins Aug. 20, $50/person. Register in PDE3 (3 credits), or learn more: https://intranet.hawaiipublicschools.org/Lists/Opportunities.

4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) is the world’s largest youth-led science experiment. On Oct. 5, the NYSD challenge, called Drone Discovery, will teach youth topics related to unmanned flight including flight dynamics, aircraft types, safety and regulations, remote sensing and flight control. The Oahu 4-H program has 20 Drone Discovery Kits for afterschool program providers on Oahu that work with youth ages 8-14 years of age. Training to be held Sept. 20. Details: 622-4185.

Success Stories

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.” — Margaret Mead

SENIOR’S CAPSTONE PROJECT BOON FOR AIEA

Class of 2016 graduate Perry Arrasmith focused on photovoltaic panels on the roofs of Aiea High, made a reality with the help of the Office of School Facilities and Support Services.

Story: bit.ly/AieaCapstone

PERCUSSION PASSION TAKEN TO NATIONALS

Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi and Hiroshima Prefecture Supt. Kuniaki Shimozaki have agreed to build upon its sister-state relationship to expand opportunities for global competence education.

Story: bit.ly/HIDOE-HYPE

HAWAII REPRESENTS IN D.C. TALENT SHOW

At First Lady Michelle Obama’s Turnaround Arts Talent Show in Washington D.C., Hawai‘i arts integration students performed hula and played ukulele with mentor Paula Fuga.

Watch: bit.ly/HIDOE-TADC

LEARN MORE

Download the Students’ Day packet:
bit.ly/HYCIUCN
Don’t Miss This!  EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF

AUG & SEPT >>>

BOE COMMUNITY MEETINGS
The Board of Education and Department of Education are hosting community meetings to share draft updates of the Strategic Plan to better support student success. The Governor’s ESSA Team is also sharing information about new opportunities under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. Hawai‘i’s state plan for ESSA (due next year) will be led by the Strategic Plan. Anyone interested in public education is encouraged to join! Dates/locations: bit.ly/SPCommMtg

CONSERVATION CONGRESS
Honolulu plays host to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, offering a unique learning opportunity with Students’ Day (see page 1). Explore our online IUCN-aligned STEM Resource Bank, featuring project-based learning in areas including biodiversity, food and water security, and climate change. Explore: bit.ly/HIDOE-IUCN

NATIONAL GEARUP WEEK
This is the time to shout out about the positive impact that GEAR UP is having in our communities. It’s a time to engage all your stakeholders to share the progress that students in the program are making towards achieving their life-long dream of going to college! Learn more: www.edpartnerships.org/national-gear-up-week

SEPT 27
LEARNING, LEADING, INNOVATING
HIDOE’s Educational Officers will converge at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall for the 2016 Leadership Symposium to learn about educational “best practices” to help students become college, career and community ready, with a keynote from George Couros, author of “The Innovator’s Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity.” Details: https://intranet.hawaiipublicschools.org/offices/leadership

Supt.’s Corner

Aloha teachers, school leaders and support staff, and welcome to a new school year!

I want to thank you for your hard and collective work on behalf of our children that has resulted in gains for our students.

During a recent trip to D.C., national educational leaders shared how impressed they are with the improvements in Hawai‘i — with more elementary students attending school regularly, more of our high school graduates enrolling in both two- and four-year colleges, and those graduates being better prepared to succeed and needing less remediation. We are outpacing states in improvement in academic proficiency as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

While your work is being recognized across the country, we also know that this growth did not happen overnight. Our progress required consistent and courageous leadership throughout the Department at every school, complex and state office, by each employee on the team and with the support of our community over the long haul.

Still, there is more work to be done. The recent ACT survey of our current high school seniors showed that 69 percent aspire to go to college — yet only 56 percent of the Class of 2015 have enrolled. And the most recent report on the projections of jobs and education requirements through 2020 showed that 69 percent of jobs in Hawai‘i will require some post high school training or education.

Supporting ALL kids to reach their dreams — that must remain the focus of our decisions and actions.

Let’s use what we have built and learned over these past years to support schools that employ strategies, grounded in research-based practice, that are student-focused, with environments that foster and nurture the spirit of curiosity and wonder that children bring.

Every one of us is motivated to make a difference for our keiki. I’ve seen it during my visits to your complexes and schools, in our team meetings, and I’ve seen it in your joy when our students succeed. Our unified effort will move public education dramatically in the right direction for our children and for our state.

Best wishes for the school year ahead. I look forward to seeing and hearing about your successes and helping to turn our challenges into opportunities this school year.

CONNECT
HawaiiPublicSchools.org /HIDepartmentofEducation /HIDOE808 /HIDOE808 doe_info@hawaiidoe.org

Education Update is a monthly newsletter by the Department’s Communications Office, distributed to schools, the first Board of Education meeting of the month, and posted to HawaiiPublicSchools.org. We encourage submissions! Send to: 1390 Miller Street, Rm 312, Honolulu, HI 96813. Phone: (808) 586-3232; Email: doe_info@hawaiidoe.org.