

# Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | JUNE 2017

## BOE picks new superintendent

The Hawai'i Board of Education (BOE) selected Christina Kishimoto, Ed.D., as Superintendent to lead the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) after a rigorous search over several months and with 92 applicants.

Kishimoto signed a three-year contract and will start August 1. She will transition out of her role as Superintendent of the Gilbert Public Schools district in Arizona.

Kishimoto is recognized

nationally as a visionary leader in education for her reform work in schools. She earned a Masters in Public Affairs from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate from Columbia University.

"I look forward to working hand in hand with Hawai'i's teachers, leaders, staff, parents, community members, and student leaders to execute on this vision of high quality college, career, and community readiness."



Dr. Christina Kishimoto begins a three-year contract as superintendent Aug. 1.

## Hawai'i DOE receives national innovation award

The Education Commission of the States announced on May 16 that HIDOE is the 2017 recipient of the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation.

The Commission cited the Department's broadly-supported and impactful education improvement efforts, including focusing school accountability on students' college and career readiness; teacher and education leader support across the state; development of a comprehensive longitudinal data system; and investing in data literacy as reasons why Hawai'i received the award.

"Hawai'i worked diligently to change the landscape of education in the state and dramatically improved and enhanced the structure of education in its schools, as well as outcomes for its students," said Jeremy Anderson, president of Education Commission of the States.

HIDOE's suite of data tools



### EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

includes a longitudinal data system that provides educators with real-time access to data and even allows for targeting underperforming student populations. The Department's accompanying long-term investment in data literacy is evidenced by its Formative Instruction/Data Team initiative which engages 11,000 teachers statewide to participate in grade-level or content-based data teams using formative assessment data to inform and improve instruction.

In 2013, the U.S. DOE approved the first iteration of HIDOE's accountability system, Strive HI, which shifted focus from 10th grade proficiency to

ensuring all students graduate ready for postsecondary institutions or the workforce. Strive HI extends beyond test scores to include student growth, chronic absenteeism, college readiness and college-going. Results from this shift (2011 to 2015):

- 42 percent increase in the number of students taking and passing AP exams;
- 74 percent increase in the number of students enrolling in Early College to earn University of Hawai'i credits, and
- Decreases of about a third in the number of graduates needing English and math remediation upon entering the UH System.

"This honor is a testament to the perseverance of our school leaders, teachers and community partners who supported the department in our effort to raise rigor and expectations for our students," said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi.

## STRIVE HI Opportunities

### SCHOOLS

**The Dizzy Feet Foundation** makes grants of up to \$20,000 to community organizations and other tax-exempt entities that provide dance education programs to children. Funded programs must reach at least 80 percent low-income students and serve at least 300 students annually. Apply by July 7. [dizzyfeetfoundation.org/community-programs/information/](http://dizzyfeetfoundation.org/community-programs/information/)

**Hawaii Schools Digital Media** grants up to \$3,000 for Hawai'i's emerging K-12 video producers at any accredited public, charter, private or parochial school in the state to develop or expand digital media video programs and create original school-based videos which are aired on TEACH Channel 356 at 'Olelo Community Media. Apply by Aug. 31. [www.hawaii.edu/henc/hsdm-grants](http://www.hawaii.edu/henc/hsdm-grants)

The Hawai'i State Departments of Health and Education are issuing a request for applications to support the **implementation of the HIDOE Wellness Guidelines** with awards of up to \$5,000 per school during school year 2017-18. A total of \$160,000 is available. Schools must be public (non-charter) K-12 schools in Hawai'i, and have completed the 2016-17 Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS). Apply by Sept. 5. View flyer in the Opportunities List on the Intranet: <https://intranet.hawaiipublicschools.org/Lists/Opportunities>

## Bright Spots RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

It's fitting that Adm. Arthur W. Radford High School, which is situated a mile from Pearl Harbor, is named for a hard-charging leader who fought in three wars and reached a career pinnacle as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This school works hard to deliver its students to summits of learning and readiness.

A majority of the students are from military families, so hundreds of children come and go as the families "PCS" (Permanent Change of Station) from one base to another in the U.S. or overseas; many also have a parent who is deployed. These transitions can be disruptive to learning.

Radford High has put supports in place that are ensuring more students are college, career and community ready. Data from this year's College & Career Readiness Indicators (CCRI) report show:

- Radford's students are taking and earning qualifying marks on more AP exams. Over two years, Radford's passing rate has grown 33 percent versus the state's growth of 25 percent.

- Radford has one of the highest graduation rates in the state at 94 percent, which is up seven points from 2014. (The state's rate is 82 percent.)

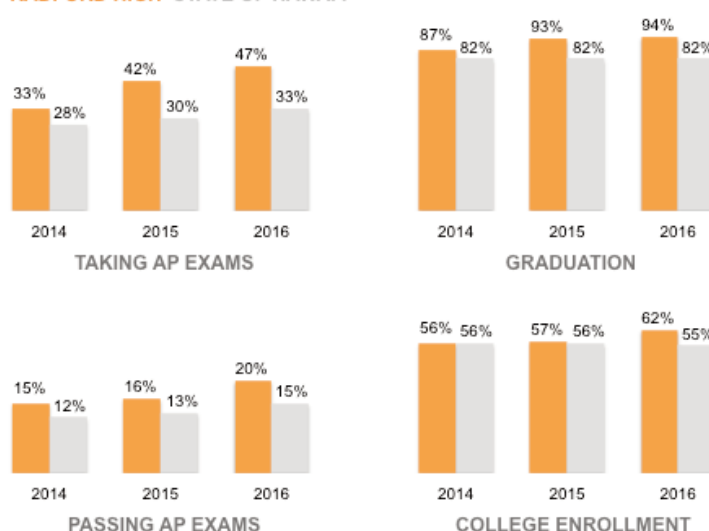
- Sixty-two percent of Radford's students enroll in college by the fall, a six-point jump from 2014. (The state's rate is 55 percent.)

Principal James Sunday credits the school's counselors with providing the right mix of academic and social/emotional support for students and strong family outreach. Changes to the bell schedule also freed up students to pursue more opportunities to enhance their diplomas and AP coursework.

At Radford, AP is not just for advanced students — the philosophy is that it's for anyone who's motivated. Building that motivation is where Radford's

### College & Career Readiness Indicators

RADFORD HIGH STATE OF HAWAII



Radford High counselors: Susie Honda, Krislyn Hara, Malia Kau, Pohai Aquino, George Sumida, Sarah Rippee, Lisa Johnstone and Erin Macedonio.

counseling team is succeeding. The work was enabled with a National Math and Science Initiative grant several years ago; Radford has since secured a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) grant to keep the program going at a high level.

"We promote open enrollment for all AP courses, have increased the number of offerings, and send teachers to the AP annual conference for professional development," Sunday said. "We do a tremendous amount of academic counseling for our students and parents to promote AP enrollment. We also have an AP parent night to go over requirements and for them to meet and greet the AP teachers."

As Radford college counselor Malia Kau noted, "We do a lot of marketing."

### 'READY FOR COLLEGE'

Earning a 3, 4 or 5 on an AP exam grants college credit. Depending on the type and number of AP exams passed, students can already have a semester or a year of college completed when they enroll. The fee per exam is \$93. When weighed against a year of college tuition, students stand to save thousands of dollars in addition to having a leg-up on finishing their degree.

But AP exams are, in a word, tough. Among Hawai'i's Class of 2016, more than 3,600 students

took an exam, but just shy of 1,600 earned a qualifying score. Any student can take an AP exam without being enrolled in the corresponding course, but the courses provide the rigor needed to do well on it.

Securing grant funding provided stability for the course offerings, but Radford staff worked hard to get students and families interested. Led by Kau, the Counseling Center at Radford includes alpha counselors Krislyn Hara, George Sumida, Susie Honda and Pohai Aquino, along with student services coordinator (SSC) Lisa Johnstone. All students are assigned an alpha counselor by name to go over academic and enrichment opportunities, while Johnstone coordinates resources to address any barriers to learning.

AP promotion takes place during Registration Week and at the AP Parent Night. In addition, Kau said, "We have closed-circuit TV bulletins in the morning advertising what's available, a curriculum fair with AP booths staffed by the teachers, we have the AP teachers go into the feeder classes — so the AP Calculus teacher would visit the Trigonometry class to promote the AP course."

Shifting to a 7-period bell schedule four years ago gave students "more wiggle room to earn their 24-plus credits," Kau added. "It allowed them to take additional classes which improved our AP, CTE programs of study, participation in AVID. It opened opportunities for deeper enrichment."

The increased AP course enrollments are strongly correlated with Radford's improvement on the exam. Kau said there's been a shift with families in that time, too.

"The college going culture has kind of changed students' and

**CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE**



## Success Stories

*“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” — Arthur Ashe*

### SEARIDER PRODUCTIONS TO GET NEW HOME

A new facility will be built for Wai‘anae High’s award-winning Searider Productions program thanks in part to legislative appropriations of \$10.7 million.

“This is a dream come true,” stated Candy Suiso, program director. “We are growing in ways we never imagined. This new facility will provide for more space to expand our program as well as allow us to keep up with changing technology now and into the future. It will also be important for our early college programs in creative media.”

The 8,500-square-foot facility will be located on the site of the current facility, and will include a new lobby, “makery space,” three new classrooms, an office-conference room, new restrooms, covered lanai and flexible multi-purpose open courtyard that will be used for outdoor classrooms and to host gatherings.



The new Searider Productions facility will include a lobby, “makery space,” three classrooms, a conference room, restrooms, covered lanai and flexible multi-purpose open courtyard.

“This project is another example of how the Department is making progress in updating our facilities to meet the needs of our future ready learners including upgrades to technology and innovative use of space,” said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi.

Honolulu-based WhiteSpace Architects was selected to lead the design into construction. Ar-

chitects Laura Ayers, AIA and Elyse Takashige, AIA are leading the design project. It will break ground next year.

### ED LEADERS FORMALIZE MAUNAKEA SCHOLARS

Hawai‘i’s leading academic institutions have formalized an educational partnership in support of the learning initiatives

created through the Maunakea Scholars program. Director Doug Simons from Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, President David Lassner of the University of Hawai‘i (UH), and Supt. Matayoshi signed a collaborative agreement that will create unprecedented research opportunities for local students.

### FINAL PHASE OF ‘GET ON BOARD’ LAUNCHED

Student bus transportation contracts have been signed on Maui and Kaua‘i for school year 2017-18, marking the final phase of the Get on Board initiative. The reform effort has streamlined processes and upgraded technology while reducing overall transportation costs by more than \$13 million annually.

The technology platform features routing software, GPS mapping and tracking, video cameras on all school buses, and online information portals.

parents’ perceptions. They see it’s attainable. Before we would have parents say, ‘I would prefer my kid get an A in the regular English class.’ Now they want the rigor. ‘Put them in AP, we want them ready for college.’”

“We have seen a big decline in families looking just for post-high-school work opportunities,” Sunday said. “Parents are really ambitious to have their children attend college once provided accurate options, financial information, and requirements.”

The school has responded by offering Junior College Planning Nights and college financial aid workshops for parents.

### TRANSITIONS

Radford educates about 1,300 students — two-thirds are military affiliated. For newly arrived students, Radford’s Transition Center provides a

sense of safety. It offers much more than “ready-made friends” — the instructional program includes stress management and learning about Hawai‘i’s cultures.

The peer-to-peer mentoring at the center cultivates leadership, Kau said. “We have a student, very soft-spoken, not very outgoing. Conversation takes a little while to get going with him. When he moved here, he went to the Transition Center and found it so helpful for getting acclimated and learning about Hawaii, he became a facilitator. So then he was getting in front of crowds and giving presentations. Even he couldn’t believe it. He really put himself out there.”

College and career promotion and supports are woven throughout a Radford student’s high school career, and all students have a senior conference at the beginning of the year with their alpha

counselor and parents.

“We talk about requirements, the senior contract, go over all the credits to make sure everyone’s on track,” Kau said.

Any students who are struggling in core courses are offered access to the PSSAS program (Program Services for Secondary Alienated and At-risk Students), whereby they can switch to a different teacher in combination with computer-based credit recovery.

“We catch about 25 to 30 students who might not otherwise make it to the finish line,” Kau said.

While this demonstrates why the school’s graduation rate is rising, the number of honors diplomas awarded — Academic, CTE, STEM — are also going up. More seniors at Radford are doing the extra work — 26 percent versus the state average of 18 percent — to earn Honors

Recognition diplomas. The school has also seen a 15-point jump over two years in the number of students completing CTE programs of study.

For Principal Sunday, it boils down to making resources and information abundantly available for students and families, and introducing a bell schedule that frees up students to pursue more of their interests. Thanks to the strong collaboration of the counseling and teaching teams at Radford, student interests are diversifying and leaning heavily toward post-secondary readiness.

“Our counselors have done an outstanding job of promoting an array of colleges for students to attend from Hawaii to the East Coast,” he said. “And teachers have made it a priority to develop relationships with students and talk about college and career options. The students are taking it from there.”

## Supt.'s Corner *"All things change." — Heraclitus*

Last month about 11,000 of our students began a new chapter in their lives, graduating from their respective public schools. I was proud to be a part of a number of commencement ceremonies where students spoke to their classmates about how far they've come and how the possibilities before them are limitless.

Along with family members who waited to greet them were many teachers, counselors, and school leaders who helped them turn that last page of their high school career.

And in that moment, when they moved their tassels and became graduates, the future of our state got a little brighter. They will face many challenges ahead; however, the lessons they've learned as public school students have given them the tools to overcome any obstacle and reach their goals.

Leading our public education system has come with momentous challenges and incredible rewards. Change definitely has been the one constant.

I remain in awe of the work by our teachers and school leaders who have come up with strategies to improve the lives and learning of our public school students.

Educational experts have taken notice of the hard work that has occurred here. This year, our department was named the top state for innovative education improvement efforts, receiving the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation from the Education Commission of the States. (See story on Page 1.)

In looking back on our progress, it's been an amazing journey!

Eight years ago, I joined Supt.



Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi with Koryne Yoon of the Class of 2017 before commencement ceremonies begin at McKinley High School.

Patricia Hamamoto as her deputy. She was focused on increasing the rigor and setting high expectations for children, knowing that we needed to set the bar high for our students to succeed in the 21st century.

In place was the heavy-handed No Child Left Behind law that defined "school failure" as anything less than 100 percent proficiency in English and math. The state was experiencing a rough recession, which included the bruising Furlough Fridays in addition to other economic fallout.

Still, we set out to strive high and never looked back. In 2010, I accepted the role of Superintendent to continue Hamamoto's commitment to transform public education.

The \$75 million Race to the

### IMUA!

View our social media roundup and video celebrating the Class of 2017: [bit.ly/HIgrad17](http://bit.ly/HIgrad17)

Top (RTTT) grant was a catalyst in our reform efforts, along with an appointed Board of Education that sought systems alignment under the clear direction of a first-ever joint Strategic Plan. Changes implemented during RTTT are shining through in our results.

All of our students are moving up — high needs and non-high needs. There is greater rigor, new cross disciplinary approaches to synthesize learning, integration strategies, data review teams — everyone working together to move the needle.

The collective change has been exhausting. Beyond the reforms, there are still the basics of caring about what we do and keeping the passion for our service burning bright.

One of my mottos has been that the DOE is not the "Department of Everything" — we must continue to build partnerships to provide the wraparound services that support all children and families to grow healthy, safe, nurturing communities. We need partners to help boost professional development opportunities to ensure our teachers and staff are learning from each other and developmental experts. Unless we are developing ourselves as

professionals, we are not serving our students to the best of our abilities.

We've proven that our Strategic Plan never sits on a shelf but instead is always a work in progress. And the work never ends. Plan, Do, Check, Act — continuous improvement at all levels.

If we are to truly be student centered, we must recognize that each graduating class is different, and there is change. We must continue to change with the needs of our students by continuing to learn alongside them.

It has been an honor to be a learner and a leader with you.

Thank you for all that you do in serving Hawai'i's keiki. Like the graduates of 2017, I look forward to the next chapter.

### CONNECT WITH US!

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