



# Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | MARCH 2017



Celebrating at the dedication ceremony for Farrington High's Edward 'Skipka' Diaz Stadium at Kusunoki Field.

## Governors' home stadium opens

Farrington High celebrated the highly anticipated opening of its Edward 'Skipka' Diaz Stadium at Kusunoki Field in front of thousands of students, community members and dignitaries. The \$19.5 million stadium includes an all-weather six-lane polyurethane track, synthetic turf field, batting cage, storage facility building, locker rooms, concession stand, ticket booth, five stadium field lights, seating for 3,000 and other support facilities.

This August will mark the first time in the school's 80-year history that the football team will play a home game at their campus.

"There are many hands that went into the transformation of this field, from securing the funding to construction," said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi. "Our hope is that Farrington High



From left, Supt. Matayoshi, Mary Diaz, Henry Kusunoki and Principal Al Carganilla untie the ceremonial maile lei to dedicate the new facility.

continues to serve as a gathering place and source of pride for the Kalihi community."

"Farrington was always known for its school spirit and we have something new to brag about with the opening of the stadium," shared junior Ella Mae Domondom. "It really adds to the fire of our school

pride, and I want future students to take care of it. It's a gem for our campus."

The new auditorium and stadium are part of a renovation master plan for the school, which started in 2012. There are nine phases to the plan with the athletic facilities being part of Phase I.

## STRIVE HI Opportunities

### EDUCATORS

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (**PAEMST**) are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Awardees serve as leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Accepting nominations of teachers working in grades 7-12 until April 1, or teachers in grades 7-12 are invited to apply by May 1. [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org)

Help answer the need for educators in the Islands by attending the 2nd Annual **It's Great to Be a Teacher in Hawaii** event, April 22 at Leeward Community College. The free event is designed to help you start your career as a substitute teacher or transition into a full-time teaching role. Learn more and register: [bit.ly/TeachHI17](http://bit.ly/TeachHI17)

### SCHOOLS

In partnership with the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the **Artists in the Schools** program (AITS) returns with up to \$6,000 grants toward artist residencies in schools for the 2017-18 school year. Schools must contribute 10 percent of the grant amount received toward expenses. A new funding feature for neighbor island schools this year includes curriculum to increase engagement with installed works. Due May 2. Details: [sfca.hawaii.gov/grants-programs/artists-in-the-schools/](http://sfca.hawaii.gov/grants-programs/artists-in-the-schools/)

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## Nā Hopena A‘o CAMPBELL-KAPOLEI COMPLEX AREA

On a crisp, sunny morning, Complex Area Supt. Heidi Armstrong greeted the welcoming circle at Camp Pālehua in the Wai‘anae Mountains where several dozen educators and community partners were gathered. The focus was two-fold, she said:

- Community partnerships that are truly “win-win,” in which each partner is enriched by the arrangement; and

- Finding meaningful ways to bridge two initiatives: The Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area’s Project Lead the Way (PLTW) effort, and the statewide HĀ ends policy.

HĀ and PLTW are initiatives focused on outcomes. PLTW, which has been rolling out at select CK schools over the last two years, offers rigorous K-12 learning opportunities for students in biomedicine, computer science and engineering that lead to high-quality, in-demand careers. HĀ, also known as Nā Hopena A‘o, seeks to develop the learning environment and competencies that strengthen a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total-well-being and Hawai‘i (“BREATH,” or HĀ) in schools and communities.

While distinct, these outcomes are both designed to cultivate successful communities, where students graduating from the school system have the option to find and build careers that allow them to stay in Hawai‘i.

The question posed by Armstrong was how to bring it all together — authentically?

This question provided a framework for the learning and collaboration among the participants; in addition to teachers, school leaders and camp stewards, these included community partners from The Learning Coalition, HIKI (a division of the Pacific American Foundation), The Leader Project,



**TOP:** An exercise in silence at Pālehua Ranch: connecting to place by disconnecting from distractions. **LEFT:** A ho‘owaiwai protocol starts the day.



STEMS2, UH-West Oahu, and Queens Medical Center – West Oahu — each with stakeholders who were eager to build “win-win” partnerships to grow student and community success.

Before breaking out into groups, participants engaged in a ho‘owaiwai (to create abundance) protocol in which water was poured into an ipu to cement their collective work. Teams of four then worked through a place-based inquiry process through the PLTW lens, focusing on sustainability efforts involving natural resources at the camp.

### CONNECTING TO 'PLACE'

Later that morning, the group traveled up the road about a mile from the camp to visit the Pā. Ranch Ranger Anu challenged the participants to take their work beyond what they know as “place-based learning,” echoing Armstrong’s directive.

“What is necessary to take knowledge forward?” he asked. “It’s more than being in a place. You need a sense of direction. And a sense of time.”

Upon entering the Pā,

participants were asked to be silent for 10 minutes. It was an opportunity to disconnect from the note taking and work of the moment and begin observing the surroundings: the shapes and placement of rocks, the groupings of trees, the angle and ascent of the sun in relation to the rock walls.

In the hour that followed, Anu shared stories of how Hawaiians 400 years earlier used the Pā to build their knowledge of earth, sea and sky, which were transmitted via several hundred teachers learning at the Pā to the ‘Ewa plain and coast below, where most of the people lived. That led to an awareness of how those assets are preserved now.

### CAREER PATHWAYS

By the afternoon participants were meditating on the many ways in which the day’s work translates at the school and classroom levels. Justin Delos Reyes, a Campbell High computer science teacher, brought it back into focus.

He made a strong pitch for a crediting system that more

flexibly accepts stackable certifications in programming languages as pathway credits toward graduation.

“These kids don’t have to leave Hawai‘i for good-paying jobs,” he said. “I’m always telling my kids, you pick up these certifications, you can start work — good work — tomorrow.”

Knowing nods from the participants gave way to a debate about how partnerships can move forward to help connect kids to such opportunities, and it circled back to building the interest early. Elementary school leaders sought tours from members representing Queens Medical Center-West Oahu, who were eager to get started.

Hope Espinda, the STEM resource teacher for Campbell-Kapolei, reflected on the connections to HĀ.

“What does a partnership that works look like?” she asked. She posited that the answer is those that meet the missions of the partner organizations while creating learning environments that strengthen HĀ outcomes in ourselves, schools, and the broader community.



## Success Stories *"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up." — Vince Lombardi*

### Career fair sparks interest in CTE Pathways for middle students

Hundreds of students from eight middle schools on O'ahu were able to explore career and post-secondary education options at the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education's Middle School Career Industry Fair.

Students from Central Middle, Washington Middle, Dole Middle, Stevenson Middle, Waimanalo Elementary & Intermediate, Waianae Intermediate, Nanakuli High & Intermediate and Waipahu Intermediate were able to mingle with 50 exhibitors from a variety of companies and colleges.

"Hawai'i P-20 is a valuable partner for the Department, and this event is an example of the wonderful opportunities they provide for our students by exposing them to various career and post-secondary education options," said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi. "By starting this process with our middle schoolers, it provides additional time throughout high school for them to think about their college or career pathway."

The goal of the event, which was held at the Hawaii Convention Center, was to introduce students to high skill,

#### LEARN MORE

[www.p20hawaii.org](http://www.p20hawaii.org)

high demand careers so they can start planning for their future. Prior to attending, students took a test to assess their skills and interests. Students were given a "Passport" at the event and tasked with visiting five exhibitors and referencing the results of their test for guidance on which ones to visit.

Exhibitors representing nine Career and Technical Education pathways were on hand to speak with students including Hawaii Pacific Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Oceanit, National Security Agency, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, Kupu, and more.

"We got to experience different career paths we could possibly take in the future, and I feel like it gave me an idea of what I want to pursue," shared Bree Turner, seventh grader at Stevenson Middle. "I really liked the culinary arts [exhibit] because they looked like they really enjoyed what they were doing, and I want to pursue a career where I'll be satisfied."



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## Briefs WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS | MORE AT [HAWAIIPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://HAWAIIPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG)

### EWA MAKAI STUDENT NAMED TOP VOLUNTEER

Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals announced the 2017 top youth volunteers for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Emma Tandara, an eighth grader at Ewa Makai Middle, was selected as the Middle Level State Honoree for Hawai'i.

Emma was honored for her ef-



**Tandara**

forts to promote recycling at her school by spearheading a music video project, which was presented to the Ewa Makai Middle student body and again to more than 300 educators at a City & County event called Tour de Trash. "I remember accompany-

ing my grandma to a wide range of volunteer activities and seeing the joy it brought her. When she passed away I became even more committed to following in her footsteps and continuing her legacy of community service," shared Emma.

### INSTRUMENTS DONATED TO STEVENSON MIDDLE

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) donated musical

instruments to Stevenson Middle to replace those that were stolen.

"We are so blessed to have community partners like OHA who took the initiative to reach out to our school after the incident," said Principal Linell Dilwith. OHA's Colette Machado, Dan Ahuna and Kamana'opono Crabbe visited the campus today and presented two 'ukulele, a flute, a piccolo, carrying cases and strings.



# Don't Miss This!

EVENTS, DEADLINES &amp; FUN STUFF

## GOING TO D.C. >>>

### SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM PICKS

Jessica Valdez (Hilo High) and Matthew Darrah (Kalaheo High) will represent Hawaii at the annual **United States Senate Youth Program**. The student delegates will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation and a trip to Washington D.C. where they will tour the national monuments and museums and attend meetings and briefings with legislators, an ambassador to the U.S., a justice of the Supreme Court and other leaders.



## MAR 5-11

### TEEN TECH WEEK

Showcasing the great digital resources and services available in libraries to help teens succeed in school and prepare for college and careers. This year's spokesman, graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang: "Library staff teach us to be wise and discerning about the information we consume. Because of technology, our world is now more information-rich than ever before, which is why we are more in need of wisdom than ever before." [teentechweek.ning.com](http://teentechweek.ning.com).

## MAR 10-17

### JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNIVERSE

This 13th annual event promotes sustained education in STEM, and is a celebration of exploration and the joys of learning science and astronomy. In Hilo-Waiakea, dozens of researchers from the telescope array and UH-Hilo will visit classrooms and offer workshops to share the excitement and inspiration about the life-long career possibilities and learning opportunities available in STEM fields. [www.gemini.edu/journey](http://www.gemini.edu/journey)

## MAR 17

### BEE. B-E-E. BEE.

Good luck to the top finishers of our district bees who will compete in the **Kama'aina Kids Hawaii State Spelling Bee** at New Hope Church on Sand Island in Honolulu. The top finisher will represent Hawaii at the Scripps National Spelling Bee May 28-June 3 in Maryland. [spellingbee.com](http://spellingbee.com)



## APR 10-12

### SCIENCE & ENGINEERING GALORE

The **60th Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair (HSSEF)** showcases top work from district fairs — students conduct scientific research, prepare a display board explaining the research, and present their findings to individual scientists, community groups and related organizations. Top finishers at HSSEF will represent Hawaii at the International Science & Engineering Fair in L.A. May 14-19. [www.hawaiiacademyofscience.org/science-fair/](http://www.hawaiiacademyofscience.org/science-fair/)

## Supt.'s Corner



It's easy for a headline like this to get lost in the mix: "Hawaii ranked No. 1 in nation in school Internet connectivity." This is a big deal.

If you take a look at the report from the Education Superhighway national advocacy group, you'll see Hawaii is way ahead of the pack in delivering bandwidth to students and teachers. (Digital report: [stateofthestates.educationsuperhighway.org](http://stateofthestates.educationsuperhighway.org).)

Hawaii is the only state providing 100 percent of needs in four categories: Connectivity (meeting 100 kbps per student minimum goal), Fiber (percent of schools with fiber connections needed to meet bandwidth targets, Wi-Fi

(sufficient access in all classrooms) and Affordability (maximizing bandwidth for the budget). Much of this work was completed in 2014 with the Converged Infrastructure Initiative executed by our technology and facilities offices.

A project of this size doesn't get done with a snap of fingers, particularly when it comes to less-than-agile bureaucracies. But it was a clear necessity. Reliable internet access would provide our students with an edge in preparation for careers and college, and help achieve greater equity for all our students. It was something we had to work to-

## VIDEO

The Converged Infrastructure Initiative comes together: [vimeo.com/133097334](http://vimeo.com/133097334)

ward, patiently and diligently, for years.

My involvement dates back to my time at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), where I worked with then UH vice president for Information Technology (now UH President) David Lassner and Clyde Sonobe (now assistant superintendent, Office of Information Technology Services) to make this a priority in our state. There were many supporters, in-

cluding Sen. Dan Inouye, who was instrumental in a \$36 million federal grant, and the DCCA, which contributed \$4 million. However, there were also many competing needs. The time and effort to complete the network upgrades was tremendous and required the dedication and hard work of Hawaii's educational IT teams. We stayed focused, we didn't give up, and now we lead the nation for connected schools.

It's a major achievement, a legacy of equity and access for our students upon which we must continue to build.

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