

Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | MARCH 2019

Ala Wai El's King wins teaching's 'Oscar'

Sara King, a Title I Coordinator at Ala Wai Elementary, has become the latest recipient of the coveted Milken Educator Award. Regarded as the "Oscar Award of Teaching," it honors outstanding excellence in education and comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. King is the only Hawai'i Milken Educator in 2019, and is among 33 teachers nationwide selected for the honor this season.

King received the surprise award in a schoolwide assembly of over 400 cheering students, teachers and staff members. King's commitment to public education and providing rich learning experiences for all students in addition to her leadership in developing schoolwide systems to align teaching practices with strategies to support student learning impressed the Milken Family Foundation.

"Her tenacity in ensuring that



PHOTO: Milken Family Foundation

King is among only 33 teachers in the nation to receive the Milken Educator Award this year.

her students are equipped with the skills to thrive in an information-dependent global society is tremendous and we congratulate and thank her for being such an inspiration for our students," said Supt. Christina M. Kishimoto.

In her role, King develops schoolwide support systems that allow all students to thrive and reach their full potential. She works with her colleagues to

achieve these goals with tiered support systems and enrichment programs. Before taking over the Title I coordinator role in August 2017, King taught first grade and served as grade-level leader.

Principal Michelle DeBusca said King has been instrumental in shifting school culture at Ala Wai El through her sharing of ideas and resources to promote student achievement and positive behaviors. She collaborates with colleagues to plan school events such as learning showcases, Leader in Me Parent Nights, Title I workshops, May Day, and small group literacy practices.

King is recognized as a student-centered teacher who believes in students' innate curiosity to develop critical thinking. She often helps her students categorize, prioritize, and evaluate their own ideas to formulate defining questions to research and design project-based solutions.

Anti-bullying app launches for HIDEOE middle schools

The easy-to-use Speak Now HIDEOE app provides a digital avenue for students to report bullying incidents that happen on HIDEOE campuses or transportation or during its events to appropriate school personnel.

Students can still report any such incident in person to a trusted adult.

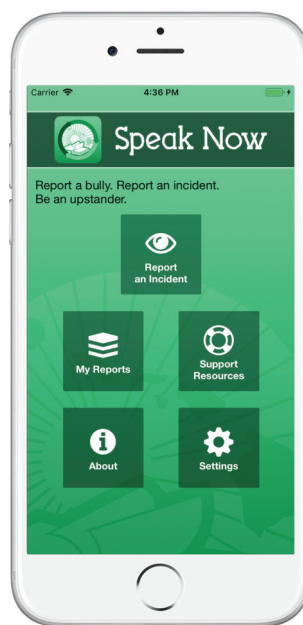
The app launched on January 31 for HIDEOE middle schools in a first phase of the rollout. High schools will follow in September 2019, and elementary schools in

September 2020.

The app allows students to make an anonymous report if they choose.

Speak Now HIDEOE can be downloaded from the App Store (Apple devices) or Google Play (Android devices).

Visit the Hawai'i DOE website to view a step-by-step video, download a flyer and more: bit.ly/SpeakNowHIDEOE. Additional resources for school staff are available on the Intranet; search for "Speak Now HIDEOE."



STRIVE HI

Opportunities

EDUCATORS

Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms (Fulbright TGC) is a year-long professional development opportunity for U.S. elementary, middle, and high school teachers to develop skills for preparing students for a competitive global economy. Fulbright TGC equips teachers to bring an international perspective to their schools through targeted training, experience abroad, and global collaboration. Apply by March 7. bit.ly/FulbrightTGC

The **Recording Academy's Music Educator Award** will recognize 10 teachers and one winner for their remarkable impact. The winner will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 61st Annual GRAMMY Awards next year, receive the Music Educator Award at a ceremony during GRAMMY Week, plus pick up a \$10,000 personal honorarium. Finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium; semifinalists a \$500 honorarium. Apply by March 31. grammymusicteacher.com

Registration has opened for the **iTEaCH Conference**, a teacher-led, teacher-empowered, and student-inspired event promoting innovative and dynamic learning through computer science, sponsored by the Hawai'i DOE, to be held on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Free for HIDEOE registrants, \$150 for charter schools. Do you have an innovation to share? Call for proposals accepted through March 15. bit.ly/hidoeiteach

Kaua'i Teacher Fellowship SCHOOL DESIGN STUDENT VOICE TEACHER COLLABORATION

A team of Garden Isle educators is gearing up to collect student voice on how the Hawai'i DOE informs Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) across its schools. They belong to an innovative collaborative, the Kaua'i Teacher Fellowship, conceived and designed in 2016 by Hope Street Group fellow Jonathon Medeiros to bring teacher and student voice into administrative decision-making.

It's good timing for this work. Supt. Christina Kishimoto has made student voice a foundational strategy for implementing equity and excellence in statewide public education, and has specifically called for student voice to inform a statewide SEL Framework. Also, our outcomes policy Nā Hopena A'o (HĀ) seeks to grow total well-being in the system.

It's ambitious work for a team of educators who have full-time jobs in the classroom, but as the adults most closely connected with students on campus, they're the right leaders of this work to answer the question... *Do students have the power to improve the culture of their schools?*

FINDING ROOTS

The Fellowship meets quarterly to share impactful classroom practices to bring back to their campuses. At its third meeting this school year on Jan. 31, and to help ground them in the SEL work, they started with a review of place-based learning and Philosophy for Children (p4c).

They met at the Lawai International Center near Kalaheo to hear about the history of the Lawai valley and spend time in its new Hall



The Lawai International Center in Kalaheo. Kaua'i teachers, from left: Laurelle Catbagan, Ann Keeler, Caroline Freudig, Matt Snowden, Missy Peck, Jonathon Medeiros, Mike Kline, Sara Deblin and Darlene Muraoka.

of Compassion, built in the style of a traditional 13th century Japanese temple. At the turn of the century a replica of the pilgrimage of Shikoku was built there, with 88 Buddhist shrines, by Japanese immigrants who came for work at the Koloa Sugar Company. For years it was the epicenter of community celebrations, but as families moved away and sugar production declined, it fell into memory and was consumed by tropical growth. A former teacher, Lynn Muramoto, made it her life's work to restore the site via a nonprofit she founded three decades ago. It's now open two Sundays a month and hosts an annual Pilgrimage of Compassion.

Unearthing a place of peace... growing schools of compassion.

FINDING PHILOSOPHY

There are skill sets behind thoughtful speaking and questioning, active listening, and deep thinking. In the Hall of Compassion,

fellows sat in a circle to learn how to cultivate that in students from 'Ele'ele El teacher Laurelle Catbagan, who received training on p4c through UH-Mānoa's Uehiro Academy. It starts with an understanding of Intellectual Safety — no comments intended to belittle, undermine, negate, devalue, or ridicule. Teachers were prompted to consider a "good wondering" — something that makes you think deeply, that has more than one answer, that everyone can talk about, that's interesting. The fellows chose to discuss: "Does everyone deserve compassion?"

Catbagan tossed a Community Ball to the teacher who crafted the question, granting him the right to speak. He then chose who spoke next and tossed them the ball, and it goes around the circle until all have had a chance to offer their thoughts, while the teacher facilitates. (Anyone can pass.) At the end of the discussion, a reflection is conducted on how the group lis-



HIGH-IMPACT STRATEGIES:
bit.ly/HIDOE-strategies

tened, focused, and participated. Further reflection analyzes the quality of the thinking — was something new learned? did it get beneath the surface? Catbagan shared ways the activity can be differentiated for an elementary versus a high school classroom.

With the morning sessions providing context, the fellows reconvened at Kaua'i High to get to the task at hand.

SETTLING QUESTIONS

The Fellowship refined questions, identified during their November convening, which aim to determine if students are empowered to make positive culture change in their schools. It seeks to gather both student and teacher perspectives. Student questions were adjusted for age groups to ensure adult guidance isn't needed. With administrative permission, they plan to conduct two surveys: an islandwide online form survey with open-response fields, as well as at least one focus group each of students and teachers at each fellow's school. (See table for sample questions.)

The fellows plan to gather data from March 1-15, then with Kaua'i's principals reflect on results and discuss next steps at their final convening of the school year.

SAMPLE STUDENT QUESTIONS	SAMPLE TEACHER QUESTIONS
What are your ideas on how to make your schools a better (safer) place?	How can we involve students in changing the culture of our school, as it relates to ensuring a strengthened sense of well-being?
Are you able to share your thoughts, ideas, and feelings about your life, your school, your learning with your teacher? When and how are you able to do this?	In your role, what opportunities do you provide to students to share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings about their lives; their school; their learning; their classes (as it relates to a total sense of well-being)?

Success Stories HAWAII REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

WAHIAWA MIDDLE 8TH GRADER NETS TOP AWARD

Emma Park, an 8th grader at Wahiawa Middle School, was playing with her younger sister Ava on a fall day in their backyard after school. She brought her mom's Canon camera with her.

Emma reflected on some of the lessons learned during her art classes about photographic composition. The vertical plane and the wood grain of a shed on the property provided contrast. She ripped up some old boxes to add more texture. She played with light and angle. Ava looked up.

The result, "Waiting for You," has been selected as an American Visions nominee in the Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The prestigious annual showcase for students in grades 7 to 12 honors the artistic vision and skill of Hawai'i's students in a variety of media: Architecture & Industrial Design, Ceramics & Glass, Comic Art, Design, Digital Art, Drawing & Illustration, Editorial Cartoon, Fashion, Film & Animation, Jewelry, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, Video Games, and Art Portfolio. A selection of nominated works is on display at the Hawaii State Art Museum through April 19.

More than 500 works have been selected this year for Honorable Mentions, Silver Keys, and Gold Keys. Of those, five that are considered the finest work across the state are named American Visions. Students who earned Gold Key and American Visions nominations in the regional program are eligible for the national program of awards, exhibitions and scholarships.

"I was shocked, actually," Emma said when she was told of her top award. "I always saw something in my work, and it makes me really happy that other people see something in it, too."

"Emma has great vision," said Brandy Belt, her art teacher at Wahiawa Middle who has worked with her for two years. "I really like



"Waiting For You," by Wahiawa Middle student Emma Park, is an American Visions nominee in the Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Awards program. "I like how you can just create anything and just make it your own."



Emma Park and teacher Brandy Belt at Wahiawa Middle School.

that she introduced the ambiguity of the shed into her photo. Her sister seems like a bright and happy kid, but you can see how Emma uses her eye to change the tone."

In her lessons on photography, which is a student favorite, Belt said they focus on learning and playing with the components of composition. They'll take many shots of a subject, then share work to a digital whiteboard.

"There's a lot of higher level thinking: peer evaluation, looking

at themes," she said. "We work together as a class to decide which works to submit. We analyze and learn from each other." A retired art teacher, Darlene Oshiro, also comes in to assist.

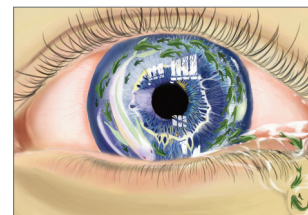
As the nominees are named for the regional competition, and in particular for the national level which is highly selective, Belt tells students to keep working on their own perspectives and talents. "I have to remind them that the judging is subjective. Even Emma with her work, it's still whoever is viewing it and their past experiences and what speaks to them. We've looked at 8th grade work that makes it to New York. It's not as cut and dry as, say, solving a math problem."

Emma, meanwhile, is enjoying her strong showing in the regional program along with the pride of her teacher and her mom.

As for Ava, the subject of her latest artistic achievement? "She told me I owe her a dessert."

GALLERY

View a selection of honored works from around our schools in our Flickr gallery: bit.ly/2019HRSAA



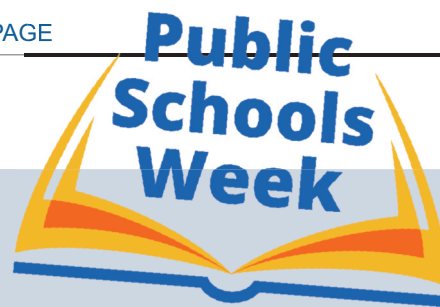
Don't Miss This! EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF



MAR 25-29 >>>

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Celebrate our nation's public schools, our students and the many school professionals who work to help students achieve their greatest potential. Millions of educators will mark the week with events and outreach in their communities, and a bipartisan group of lawmakers will speak on the importance of a strong public education system. Share your stories with #PSW19 and #PublicSchoolProud. Resources: learningfirst.org/publicschoolsweek



50,700,000 students

3,200,000 teachers

90,400 principals

108,376 school counselors

98,300 public schools

MAR 28-31 >>>

STUDENT TELEVISION NETWORK

The 16th annual national convention provides a showcase for excellence in scholastic broadcast journalism, creative video, filmmaking and media convergence for students in middle and high school. About 3,000 will compete and participate in 60 free professional sessions and 35 onsite team/individual competitions with professional critiques. Hawai'i student teams always impress! Looking forward to seeing their work. www.studenttelevision.com/convention



APRIL

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

We honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members. The Hawai'i DOE has nearly 13,000 military impacted students. Be sure to wear purple on April 24 to show your support!

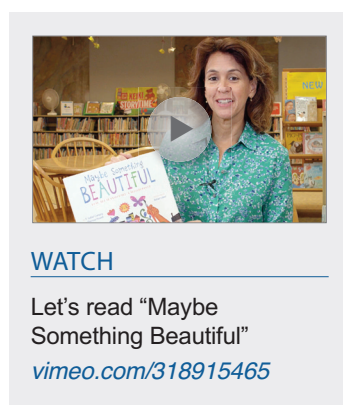


Supt's Corner DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO

When it comes to language arts and literacy, there's a lot to celebrate in Hawai'i. We've made 3rd grade literacy a focus because it's predictive of readiness for more complex work in the upper grades, and it spotlights where we need to bolster early childhood educational supports. Literacy also holds the key to understanding all subjects. As such, it's an indicator in our Strategic Plan and will continue to be data we track.

The statewide data show that our 3rd graders are on a literacy rocket ship:

- Hawai'i saw a 7-point increase, year over year, in the percentage of 3rd graders reading



WATCH

Let's read "Maybe Something Beautiful"
vimeo.com/318915465

near, at or above grade-level on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). At 73%, I have great confidence we'll exceed our statewide target of 76% by 2020.

- Our 3rd graders who are meeting and exceeding the achievement standard for Language Arts on the SBA has jumped 7 points from our first SBA assessment three years ago to 53%. They're helping to drive across-the-grades increases in language arts achievement. (Incidentally, our 3rd graders are also up 5 points in math over that time.)

These results reflect our students' greater knowledge under more challenging Common Core learning standards. From a skills standpoint, our students are more prepared for upper grades and post-secondary.



The achievement here is rooted in the increased collaboration among our teachers and a commitment by schools and Complex Areas to engage our students. Take Keaukaha Elementary in Hilo. Their drive to spark a love of reading includes daily SURF (silent uninterrupted reading for fun), a lip-sync battle and a student project showcase of their favorite books. In three years, 3rd graders at Keaukaha went from 17% meeting/exceeding the SBA language arts achievement standard to 43% last year. That kind of growth happens organically when kids love learning and they can show it.

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