



2015

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF HAWAII'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY



“The hard work we do is to assure that our students are ready for any and every opportunity.”

— Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi

Jan

- ✓ Hawaii's 2015 State Teacher of the Year, Catherine Caine, is selected as one of four finalists for the **National Teacher of the Year Award**. She has taught at Waikiki since 1992.



Feb

- ✓ The Department launches the **Office of Hawaiian Education**.
- ✓ Mililani Uka's Jana Fukada, left, is named the winner of the \$25K **Milken Award**. The "Oscar of Teaching" is awarded for significant contributions to the profession and efforts to ensure all students receive a top education.

Mar

- ✓ The **USDOE's monitoring report** confirms Hawaii has made major progress as a result of reforms. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said, "Hawaii is a model for the rest of the country."
- ✓ College and Career Readiness Indicators (**CCRI**) show big improvements in public schools: higher reading & math proficiency, college enrollment and early credit attainment.

Apr

- ✓ The DOE's **Annual Financial Audit** for the 2014 fiscal year shows the Department is doing a better job at keeping its finances in order. The independent report is coordinated by the state's Office of the Auditor.

May

- ✓ Hahaione, Kaelepulu and Palisades elementary schools are named **Blue Ribbon School** nominees, in recognition of their exceptional student achievement gains and improvement efforts.
- ✓ The first phase of the renewable energy generation portion of the **Ka Hei** program begins at McKinley High.

Jun

- ✓ Waianae Intermediate and Nanaikapono Elementary earn national praise from the **American School Counselor Association** for efforts to raise student achievement through comprehensive services.

Jul

- ✓ **Ho'okele Elementary** opens. The new school's 78,404 sq. ft. campus has seven buildings surrounding a courtyard and includes a library and a dedicated arts and science building.
- ✓ Students return to **Keonepoko Elementary** after the school was closed during the Puna Lava Flow. "It's like being back at home," said Principal Kasey Eisenhour.

Aug

- ✓ Celebrity artists Alfre Woodard, Jack Johnson and Jake Shimabukuro launch **Turnaround Arts Hawaii** at Kalihi Kai El. (pictured), Kamaile Academy and Waianae El. through 2017.



Sep

- ✓ Pearl Ridge Elementary's Andrew Lagapa, above, named DOE's **2015 Employee of the Year** for his tireless work ethic and devotion to students. Kailua Intermediate's Science & Engineering Dept. named **Team of the Year** for their systematic and coordinated teaching approach.



Oct

- ✓ Kapunahala Elementary teacher Stephanie Mew, below, named Hawaii's **2016 State Teacher of the Year**, receiving the state's top teaching award. Mew helps her students to become well-balanced individuals by emphasizing good character in addition to rigorous learning.



Nov

- ✓ Ewa Makai Middle named to Noodle's **Innovative Schools list** for blending physical education and digital devices.



Four-time NFL Super Bowl champ Jesse Sapolu returns to **Farrington High** to recognize its contributions to athletics and football.

Dec

- ✓ Kanoelani Elementary students, parents, staff and volunteers complete the school's **"Legacy Project"** with a \$25,000 Locations Foundation grant. Funds go toward a new STEM lab, improvements around classrooms and a mural by famed artist Hilton Alves, pictured above.

