

STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO MAUI DISTRICT OFFICE 54 HIGH STREET, 4TH FLOOR WAILUKU, HI 96793

Oct. 6, 2023

Dear Lāhainā schools parents and guardians,

As we head into fall break, we want to provide you the latest information on school reopening plans. As previously shared, extensive testing of air, drinking water and soil quality have shown the campuses are safe for students to return after fall break. Lāhaināluna students will return Oct. 16, Lāhainā Intermediate on Oct. 17, and King Kamehameha III and Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary on Oct. 18.

Students and staff from King Kamehameha III will be sharing campus facilities with Nāhi'ena'ena until a temporary school site at Pulelehua opens. High-quality tent structures are being installed at Nāhi'ena'ena to add classroom spaces that are equipped with air conditioning and wooden floors.

For student transportation, the temporary bus routes from West Maui to designated schools in Central and South Maui ended today. Families planning to keep their children enrolled in other Maui schools after Fall Break will need to make alternate transportation arrangements.

Beginning Oct. 16, the following shuttle-type bus stops will provide transport to and from the three Lāhainā campuses: **Kapalua Airport** (Nāpili-Honokōwai), **Whalers Village** (Kāʻanapali), **Kai Hele Ku St./Haniu St.** (Launiupoko), **Kalama Park** (Kīhei) and **War Memorial Gym** (Wailuku).

If you have not done so yet, please complete this form (<u>surveymonkey.com/r/LahainaSchools</u>) by Sunday, Oct. 8, to let us know your plans to return and to request a bus application, if needed.

For families opting to return to the Lāhainā schools, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) has developed health and safety guidance in consultation with the state Department of Health (bit.ly/ReopeningSafetyGuidance). It outlines actions schools will take based on air quality readings from particulate matter sensors (see attached flyer). The Department is also working to revise schools' Emergency Action Plans to address alternate access routes and exit paths should a mass evacuation be necessary.

Community organizations will be providing keiki <u>programming during fall break</u> and the HIDOE is hosting an 'ohana resource fair at the Westin Maui Resort & Spa Kā'anapali on Oct. 12 from 2-5 p.m.

We appreciate your continued patience and support during these past two months and look forward to welcoming your keiki back to our Lāhainā schools. Should you have any questions, please call (808) 727-6880 or text SUPPORT to (808) 736-1427.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rebecca Winkie

Rebecca Winhi

Hāna-Lāhaināluna-Lāna'i-Moloka'i Complex Area Superintendent

West Maui Schools

Reopening Lāhainā Schools for Fall 2023



Important Information

- · HEPA air filters will be available in every classroom.
- Air quality sensors are in each school and will be monitored throughout the day.
- Every school revisited and updated their internal emergency action plans.
- HIDOE, school administrators and local agencies will continue to work together to monitor safety.
- School administrators are committed to ongoing communication with families.
- Mental health supports are available to both students and staff.

Key Facts to Know About Particle Pollution

- Particle pollution comes from many sources such as dust, soot, smoke or car exhaust.
- Fine particulates (PM2.5 or smaller) can travel deeply into the lungs and cause inflammation and damage to the lung tissue.

FAQs

Where do I find information about the daily air quality?

Go to fire.airnow.gov.

What if I have questions about the air quality on Maui?

Call the Maui Clean Air Branch toll-free number at (808) 984-2400 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Call the number, then enter 64200#.

What are common symptoms from particle pollution?

Depending on the individual's sensitivity and the amount of exposure, they may experience coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, chest tightness, burning or watery eyes, throat and nose irritation, fatigue, or headache.

How can I protect myself and my children from particle pollution?

Limit time and intensity of activity outside, stay indoors when possible, close windows and doors, and keep indoor air as clean as possible (e.g. use a HEPA air filter).

How can I find out about soil and water quality and overall progress report for schools?

Please visit the Department of Education's Health & Safety Guidance at: <u>bit.ly/ReopeningSafetyGuidance</u>

Who should I call if I have questions about my student's health?

Contact your primary health provider or call the toll-free Hawai'i Keiki Health Hotline at (844) 436-3888 to talk with a nurse on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., excluding holidays and school intersessions. Translation services are available.

How do I update my child's health information with the school?

Use the Emergency Card to provide current health and emergency contact information to the school.



bit.ly/ReopeningSafetyGuidance

Health & Safety Guidance for Reopening Lāhainā Schools

Resources

For more information, please refer to:

- HIDOE Health and Safety Guidance for Reopening Lahaina Schools <u>bit.ly/ReopeningSafetyGuidance</u>
- HIDOE Progress Report <u>bit.ly/LahainaSchoolsProgressReport</u>

West Maui Schools

Air Quality Guide for Particle Pollution



Air Quality Index	Who Needs to be Concerned?	What Should I Do?
Good (0-50)	It's a great day to be active outside.	
Moderate (51-100)	Some people who may be unusually sensitive to particle pollution.	Unusually sensitive people: Consider making outdoor activities shorter and less intense. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it easier. Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	Sensitive groups include children ages 18 and younger, older adults, pregnant people, and individuals with health conditions such as asthma, other lung diseases, and heart disease.	Sensitive groups: Make outdoor activities shorter and less intense. It's OK to be active outdoors, but take more breaks. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. Have prescribed medications handy. Everyone else: It's OK to be active outdoors, but watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath.
Unhealthy (151-200)	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid long or intense outdoor activities. Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors. Everyone else: Reduce long or intense activities. Take more breaks during outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Reschedule to a time when air quality is better or move activities indoors. Everyone else: Avoid long or intense activities. Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors.
Hazardous (301-500)	Everyone	Everyone: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Sensitive groups: Remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors.

Adapted from United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.airnow.gov)

