Mathieu Williams joined the Hawai‘i DOE family in 2012 and serves as the technology and digital media teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate.

He developed an innovative, multilayered learning exercise for students to find the best versions of themselves while learning marketable career skills. He works with them to develop a personal global brand, guided by the HĀ framework and intense self-reflection. Students then develop their own websites to document their brands and receive feedback on design and content from their peers, parents and community partners. Williams uses this to illustrate the differences between constructive and inappropriate feedback, along with strategies to use both in positive ways. His model creates an authentic experience in a safe environment to help students find their true selves at a critical stage in their development.

Under his guidance, Kealakehe Intermediate media students earned top prizes at the 15th Annual Student Television Network’s National Convention in Nashville, and trained with digital media professionals at PBS Hawaii where they hosted the HIKI NO education program.

Williams works closely with the Hope Street Group to elevate teacher voice in curricular and policy decisions. He designed the inaugural West Hawai‘i Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching Conference to spotlight best practices. The event was an incredible success, and teachers left feeling inspired, equipped, and connected, as part of a larger community of educators.

Williams has a true passion for teaching and learning and is a wonderful representative for the State of Hawai‘i.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The Teacher of the Year award is part of a prestigious national program that honors teaching excellence in the United States. Each year the Hawaii State Teacher of the Year is chosen from one of the seven HIDOE districts and public charter school winners following a rigorous selection process that includes the teacher’s ability to inspire students to learn; to have earned respect among students, parents, and peers; to be active in the community as well as school; and to be able to perform the task of representing the teaching profession nationally and internationally. In December 2018, a national selection committee will convene in Washington D.C. to determine the four finalists. In April 2019, the President of the United States will introduce the National Teacher of the Year and all State Teachers of the Year to the nation.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS
Our corporate sponsors proudly acknowledge teaching excellence in Hawaii’s public schools. The Polynesian Cultural Center, which has sponsored the program for more than 30 years, provides monetary awards to all teacher-winners. The Hawaiian Electric Company recognizes each teacher with a gift. The Hawaii Schools Federal Credit Union awards a monetary prize. The Hawaii Automobile Dealers’ Association, a co-sponsor for 19 years, provides the State Teacher of the Year with the use of a new car for an entire year.
SHANE ALBRITTON, Public Charter Schools, SEEQS

Albritton is the fourth generation in his family to teach in Hawai’i. He uses an inventive method to teach Hawaiian history by having his students role-play historical figures from different social classes to engage their imaginations. His students use satellite imagery and topographical maps to establish their lands and are allowed to build alliances, trade, and strategize. He uses newspapers and materials from the mid-1800s that define the rules of land ownership and make history come to life for his classes. This innovative, game-based learning has engaged his students and made history an exciting event.

GAIL IZUMIGAWA, Leeward District, Waipahu High

Izumigawa serves as Director for Career Academies and has pioneered the development of academy programs in Hawai’i. Under her leadership, Waipahu High is thriving with six academies that cover 24 programs of study and reach over 2,500 students and 200 teachers. With her guidance, two of Waipahu’s academies became the first in the state to be nationally certified. She has been an active leader in academy consortia on both the state and national levels, providing opportunities for schools across the country to visit Waipahu High to learn about effective career academy design. She has been in education for 32 years and continues to strive every day to improve resources for our students.

MARY ANN KUROSE, Central District, Radford High

Kurose is a veteran educator with 22 years of experience teaching high school English. Two years ago, she volunteered to begin teaching Response to Intervention (RTI) classes to assist students who were having difficulty with English curriculum. She used her 11 years of experience with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and developed a teaching model that focused on visual, verbal and social learning styles and used Google-based digital tools to make lessons fun. She has been recognized for her excellence in teaching with awards from the Mayor’s Office and the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and she was recently highlighted as an Outstanding Educator by OC16.

SEAN DOI, Kaua’i District, Resource Teacher

A teacher with 21 years of experience and a proud public school graduate, Doi is the creator of the Kauai Shining Stars educational program and has served as its producer and host over past six years, spotlighting great work taking place at Kauai District schools. Last year, he received a prestigious Educational Access Community Producer Award from the Alliance for Community Media for highlighting the accomplishments of students, teachers and programs in the monthly show. The show’s popularity continues to grow on its Vimeo channel as Doi incorporates new, innovative techniques to spotlight success stories.