



**STATE OF HAWAI'I**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 7, 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Department of Education, welcome to the 2017-18 school year. I am honored to be your new Superintendent and look forward to the opportunity to serve all students in the state of Hawai'i.

One of three approaches I am focusing on with school leaders this year is valuing student voice. We want to hear your child's thoughts on improving their educational experience, with a focus on continuously improving schools for our children and youth. We must leave ourselves open as adults and decision makers to listen to them when they share what is working and not working in terms of our engagement approaches.

The other two approaches the school system will be concentrating on this year are school design and teacher collaboration. This means taking a look at instructional models that result in successful student outcomes. The department is working hard to make sure that schools have the support to provide for the needs of your child to be successful in their educational pursuits.

Finally, one word that I have come to value in my short time here is lōkahi. In this spirit of unity, I encourage you to engage with your child's teachers and school community so that we can work together to ensure that they are successful and prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Mahalo and have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Kishimoto".

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto  
Superintendent

CMK:ddc