



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 22, 2019

Dear HIDEOE families and guardians:

Our schools play an integral role in each of our communities. That is why when threats are made against our schools, we all feel the effects.

The Department takes all threats seriously. Immediate and swift action is taken to ensure that our campuses are safe and nurturing learning environments for students and staff.

In the past two days, individuals have inappropriately used social media to post threats to our schools. This is not how we care for community in Hawaii, and I want to reassure you that we are working closely with law enforcement agencies to investigate these incidents.

If at any time we feel that the safety of any of our students is at risk, we will immediately implement school security plans, which includes notifying law enforcement, and alert parents and communities. The Department's Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch works closely with our Complex Areas and schools to review and update these plans.

We encourage you to speak with your child about the seriousness of making these types of threats, especially over social media, where they may think it will remain anonymous. Our law enforcement partners have the capability to track down individuals who are responsible for these posts; one suspect has already been identified.

We also ask that everyone do their part to not spread these threats further by reposting them. According to the Honolulu Police Department, reposting a threat is as good as making the threat itself — it breathes life into the initial post. We encourage anyone who sees these threats to take screenshots and immediately report them to school officials and police, as well as report the offending accounts to the platforms on which they are made. Learn more here:

<https://cyberbullying.org/report>.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Christina Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:nk