

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEEWARD DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 588
KAPOLEI, HI 96707**

February 21, 2019

Dear Pearl City Complex families,

The safety and security of our schools cannot be understated. When we received word of a threat to Pearl City High School this morning, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and Federal Bureau of Investigations were immediately notified. A security plan was initiated and additional department security and HPD officers were present at the school as well as Momilani Elementary throughout the day.

A second and related social media threat was brought to our attention later this morning, which triggered a lockdown at Highlands Intermediate School from 11:10-11:37 a.m. Law enforcement is continuing their investigation and anyone with information is being urged to contact HPD immediately.

All threats to our school or students are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly. Terroristic threats are considered Class A student conduct offenses. Penalties can range from detention to dismissal with the possibility of arrest and serious criminal charges. I urge students and families to refrain from reposting threats. According to HPD, reposting a threat is as good as making the threat itself and contributes to carrying on the initial threat.

All Pearl City Complex schools will be open tomorrow. Out of an abundance of caution, schools will have additional security and/or HPD officers monitoring the area. The Hawaii State Department of Education's Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch is also working closely with the Complex.

As with any emergency-type situation, we are striving to balance the need for safety with our overall commitment to provide students and families with every sense of normalcy. We appreciate your help as we work together to keep all of our students safe. Should you have any concerns, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Hui", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith Hui
Complex Area Superintendent
Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 22, 2019

Dear HIDOE 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 black ink, appearing to read "Christina Kishimoto".

Dr. Christina Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:nk