



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MANOA SCHOOL
3155 MANOA ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

March 19, 2020

Dear Mānoa School Ohana:

My hope is that this message reaches you in the safety and comfort of your home. As I'm sure many of you have heard by now, the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) made the smart decision to close all public schools starting today for the next 15 days. No matter our age or current health condition, our activities can increase the risk for others. As a collective community, we each need to do our part to slow the spread of the coronavirus through social distancing measures.

This week, teachers, like your children at home, are making the best of their spring break vacation given these unprecedented times. On Sunday, March 15, HIDOE made the announcement that spring break was extended for students for one additional week. Yesterday, HIDOE announced that all public schools would immediately close with the intention of having students return back to our campuses starting Tuesday, April 7.

Beginning next week Monday, Mānoa School teachers will be working from their homes to put into place reasonable educational activities that their students will be able to complete. Teachers will be reaching out to families using whatever means of communication that has already been established. During the period of time between Monday, March 30 and Monday, April 6, students will work on whatever activities as directed by their teacher in the home setting. Please understand that no amount of work sent home will ever replace direct teacher-led instruction in the school setting. I trust that our teachers will do as much as they can to support your children's learning given the circumstances.

If and when school resumes on April 7, there will be a new normal for the remainder of the academic calendar. All field trips have been cancelled for the fourth quarter. We ask that you give us some time to process refunds. School wide events like that Festival of Music Fair have been cancelled. Given the current CDC guidelines for group sizes, we will see if there is any way to still hold Festival of Music student performances without an audience. HIDOE has also suspended until further notice school Use of Facilities practices. If this directive stands, this will impact our ability to conduct different before-school and after-school enrichment activities and programs. Please start thinking about how you may have to adjust to a different before-school and after-school routine.



The Hawaii Department of Education's website is the best place to get all the latest updates with regards to our public schools' response to COVID-19. This link and QR code will take you directly to the website.

<http://bit.ly/COVID19HI>.

Please, take care of yourself and your loved ones during these critical 15 days. Practice prudent social distancing. As the school is closed, please do not come on campus. Together, the Mānoa School community will be able to persevere through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kusuda
Principal