



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

May 28, 2021

Dear Mānoa School Ohana:

It has been my absolute pleasure to have served as Mānoa School's principal for the past two and a half years. This year has demonstrated that with the collective will and positive support of all stakeholders, Mānoa School could continue its mission to nurture, empower and inspire all students even through a global pandemic. I am honored to work alongside an amazing administrative support team who have provided counsel and excellence each and every school day. I am so incredibly proud of our staff who adapted their instructional practices and steadfastly continued to show their love and care of our children, even if it meant that it had to take place over a computer screen. I am humbled by the lengths that families went to in order to create workable classrooms in the home setting. I am appreciative of the generosity in both the funding and emotional support provided by our wonderful APT. I am full of pride to see our students demonstrate resiliency and grit through every conceivable challenge thrown in their direction. I am forever thankful that everyone in the school community did their part to prevent community spread of a virus that has caused so much emotional and economic pain around the world. There is so much to be grateful for, and with the steady vaccine rollout, the future looks incredibly bright for an eventual return to normalcy.

With that said, I have accepted a job as principal at Waikiki School, a progressive elementary school that recently saw its principal retire after nearly two decades in administration. I had the honor of serving as a vice principal there for nearly seven years and my intimate knowledge of that school's unique culture and identity is an important factor in me taking on this new venture. This transition will take place sometime during the summer. The process to select the next Mānoa School principal will commence shortly. Whoever is so lucky to work in this position will have a tremendous opportunity to build upon an already great school.

Thank you for your support and friendship throughout my time in the valley. Although it is difficult to say goodbye at this point in time, my hope is that our paths will cross in the near future. So with that, "*A Hui Hou Kākou,*" or *until we meet again.*

Sincerely,

Ryan Kusuda
Principal