



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 23, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hawaii's public schools are facing unprecedented budget cuts totaling \$468 million over two years (school years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011). The contract with the Hawaii State Teachers Association will help us to address a portion of our budget shortfalls. Furloughs are difficult and will require us to work together as a community to provide alternative learning opportunities and experiences for our students.

During the 17 furlough Fridays, please note the following:

- Athletic events and practices will continue as scheduled after 3:00 p.m.
- Afterschool tutoring and enrichment programs run by the school are cancelled.
- A+ Plus will not be offered by the DOE. Private providers may offer their own programs at parent expense on furlough days.
- No meal service. No student transportation (SPED included) will be provided.
- Superintendent's leadership team (superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant superintendents, and complex area superintendents) will also be on furlough.

Over the next month:

- Special education and school-based behavioral health services will be reviewed and may be rescheduled. Complex area superintendents and district educational specialists will work closely with schools to examine Individualized Education Program and 504 modification plans. *Parents are asked to work closely with their child's school during this process. Additional information will be provided.*
- School principals shall review planned professional development, afterschool student activities, conferences, and out-of-state/in-state trips.
- School principals may need to consult with their School Community Councils, faculty, and staff to reschedule Waiver Days and/or Planning and Collaboration Days. You will receive an amended calendar from your child's school.
- Visit HawaiiDOE.org and watch DOE Channel 56 for links to learning resources and parent tips.

The furlough days are scheduled on Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 20; Dec. 4, 11, 18; Jan. 15, 29; Feb. 5, 12; Mar. 5, 12; Apr. 23, 30; and May 7, 14.

We know you have many questions about how furloughs will impact school programs and operations. Please visit HawaiiDOE.org for additional information, answers to frequently asked questions, and the 2009-2010 DOE Official School Calendar.

During these challenging times, thank you for your continued support of Hawaii's public school schools and students.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Hamamoto".

Patricia Hamamoto
Superintendent