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May 19, 2020

Via Email
Christina M. Kishimoto, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Department of Education
Christina.Kishimoto@k12.hi.us

Catherine Payne
Chairperson
Board of Education
BOE.Hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov

Dear Dr. Kishimoto and Chair Payne:

Re: Notice to Commence Bargaining, Related to Reopening of School Facilities and Blended Learning

On Thursday, May 14th, in an interview with the Honolulu Star Advertiser, Dr. Kishimoto announced a number of changes related to the future of public schools as it related to reopening of school buildings and school year 2020-2021. It was announced that going forward the Department of Education (HIDOE) will be holding “blended learning going forward” with the aim to open schools on August 4th, in a “staggered start-up” with “new safety measures” and that multi-track schools would be aligned with the rest of the schools.

In addition, it was announced that the HIDOE is planning to “maximize opportunities for parents to have choice... and keep kids home for a variety of reasons” and that the “teaching body that has to be split between on-line learning and in-person learning.”

Therefore, pursuant to HRS §89-9 Scope of negotiations; consultation, Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) demands negotiations in regards to the reopening of school buildings and the related changes in teachers’ terms and conditions of employment for bargaining unit 05. Please contact me to discuss scheduling a meeting to discuss the above matters.

Sincerely,

Andrea Eshelman
Deputy Executive Director

C: Ryker Wada, Director, DHRD
Wilbert Holck, Executive Director, HSTA