



**KA 'AHA'ŌLELO
MOKU'ĀINA 'Ō HAWAI'I**
HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE

KE KAPIKALA (STATE CAPITOL)
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2024

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**LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZE ANNUAL EDUCATION WEEK AT THE HAWAI'I
STATE CAPITOL**

Honolulu, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i State Legislature will host the Annual Education Week, a longstanding celebration at the Hawai'i State Capitol, from March 18 – 22, 2024. Co-sponsored by Senate Vice President Michelle N. Kidani (Senate District 18, Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, Portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia) and Representative Justin H. Woodson (House District 9, Kahului, Pu'unēnē, Portion of Wailuku), Education Week will honor Hawai'i's educators, students, counselors, principals, and staff.

“Each year, we designate a week to invite educators and students to our State Capitol to be recognized for their contributions to education,” said Senate Vice President Kidani. “It is our honor to celebrate administration, teachers, students, and staff for making a difference in the classroom. We are thrilled to welcome our special honorees to the Capitol to celebrate their achievements in educational excellence.”

“It is with great honor to be a part of Education Week, a tradition that was implemented to celebrate our students, teachers, faculty, and staff for their outstanding contributions to Hawai'i schools and our community at large. The distinguished individuals and schools we will recognize go beyond, dedicating their creativity, outstanding skill, and countless hours to inspire and invoke change. On behalf of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, mahalo nui loa to all of you for joining us this week to honor these exemplary individuals,” said Representative Woodson.

“I'm excited to celebrate the amazing achievements of our students, teachers, faculty, and employees during Education Week,” said Superintendent Keith Hayashi. “As we work to ensure that all of our graduates are globally competitive and locally committed, I'm looking forward to continuing to partner with our lawmakers to build on the positive academic trajectory our students are on coming out of the pandemic. Mahalo to our legislators for their continued support and investment in our public schools.”

Each day of Education Week will feature various activities, including a student showcase and career pathway expo. Awardees will be recognized during Senate and House floor sessions throughout the week.

WHAT:

Education Week at the Hawai'i State Capitol

WHO:

**Senate Vice President Michelle N. Kidani, Senate Committee on Education Chair
Representative Justin H. Woodson, House Committee on Education Chair
Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature**

WHERE:

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 S. Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

WHEN:

Monday, March 18 – Friday, March 22, 2024

Senate Floor Session – 11:30 a.m.

House Floor Session – 12:00 p.m.

Awardees will be recognized daily on the floor respectively by Senate and House.

Education Week Events taking place at the Hawai'i State Capitol:

MONDAY, March 18

Friends of the Library Book Fair

Conference Room 224

8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, March 19

Department of Education Student Showcase

State Capitol 4th Floor Lanai

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 20

Student Career Pathway Expo

State Capitol 4th Floor Lanai

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, March 21

Department of Education Leadership Institute Presentation

State Capitol Auditorium

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, March 22

Early Learning Day
 State Capitol Rotunda
 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

From March 12 – March 28

Art Exhibit: *Not All Backpacks Carry the Same Weight*
 Chamber Hallway

The 2024 Awardees include the following:

Award	Award Category	Awardee
HI DOE – 2024 Hawai‘i State Teacher of the Year	Teacher of the Year	Jackie Freitas
HI DOE – Charter Schools Teacher of the Year	Teacher of the Year	John “Parker” Sawyer
District Teacher of the Year - Honolulu District's Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Laurie Chang
District Teacher of the Year - Hawai‘i District's Hilo-Waiākea Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Christopher Pike
District Teacher of the Year - Honolulu District's Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Norman Ray Sales
District Teacher of the Year - Maui District's Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lāna‘i-Moloka‘i Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	David "Kawika" Gonzales
District Teacher of the Year - Leeward District's Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Ariel Villanueva
District Teacher of the Year - Kaua‘i District's Kapa‘a-Kaua‘i-Waimea Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Kara Kitamura
District Teacher of the Year - Leeward District's Nānākuli-Wai‘anae Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Donna Soriano
District Teacher of the Year - Windward District's Kailua-Kalāheo Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Gregory Kent
District Teacher of the Year - West Hawai‘i District's Honoka‘a-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Jennifer Ilaban
District Teacher of the Year - Maui District's Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihāko‘i-Maui Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Melanie Teraoka
District Teacher of the Year - Windward District's Castle-Kahuku Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Laura Cummings
District Teacher of the Year - Central District's ‘Aiea-Moanalua-Radford Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Marina Higa
District Teacher of the Year - Leeward District's Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Jessica Peterson
District Teacher of the Year - Hawai‘i District's Ka‘ū-Kea‘au-Pāhoa Complex Area	Teacher of the Year	Pinky Grace Francisco
2023 Milken Teacher of Promise	Faculty	Ritela “Shiela” Sproule

2023 National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Hawai'i National Distinguished Principal	Faculty	Glen Miyasato
2023 American School Counselor Association's Hawai'i School Counselor of the Year	Faculty	Brittnie Caraulia
2023 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal and the 2023 Hawai'i Association of Secondary School Administrators (HASSA) Assistant Principal of the Year	Faculty	Bebi Davis
2023 HASSA Hawai'i State Principal of the Year and 2023 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award	Faculty	Sharon Beck
2023 HASL Outstanding Library Service Award	Library	Grant Tokooya
2023 Hawai'i Association of School Librarians (HASL) Golden Key Award	Library	Nicole Goff
2023 HASL Golden Key Award	Library	Jenny Yamamoto
2024 United States Senate Youth Program Delegate	Student	Ahryanna McGuirk
2024 United States Senate Youth Program Delegate	Student	Lehua Norris
2023 Prudential Emerging Visionary	Student	Kylee Hamamoto
2023 U.S. Presidential Scholar	Student	Vaeaniu Peck
2024 Hawai'i LifeSmarts State Competition 1st place	Student	Kalani High School (Brandon Tran, Andy Chen, Michelle He, Kyla Iglesia, and Mason Vuong)
2024 Hawai'i LifeSmarts State Competition 2nd place	Student	Maryknoll School (Kaya Pettit, Cassandra Barut, Aaron Broderick, Kevin Ng and Tyler Takahashi)
2024 Hawai'i LifeSmarts State Competition 3rd place	Student	Waipahu High School (Reagan Chinen, Ross Angel Bagaoisan, Stephanie Menor, Jordan Nguyen and Joybel Parinas)
U.S. Department of Education- 2023 National Blue Ribbon School	Blue Ribbon	Ka'elepulu Elementary School
U.S. Department of Education- 2023 National Blue Ribbon School	Blue Ribbon	Maunawili Elementary School

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