



'Opio



ALOHA FROM THE STATE ADVISOR

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Aina I Na 'Opio. For the past forty-five years' the Hawaii State Student Council's mission has been to adhere to this very purpose and meaning. The life of the land is preserved by the youth, a phrase whose origin came from the foresight of educators and legislators back in 1972. Their actions formalized an organized process of empowering youth and laid a foundation for the students of Hawaii.

Today, the Student Activities Program of which the Hawaii State Student Council is a part of, complements the academic program by providing learning experiences that aid in the development of citizenship, leadership, and character. Students are encouraged to use their voices in their schools and in their communities to generate ideas and share their concerns. Collectively the council, made up of 44 members from across the state works in unison to represent and serve their schools.

Last year, members were fortunate to have so many invaluable opportunities to help guide and shape their own education. They contributed to the development and approval of the State Strategic Plan. This ensured that the section on Student Success would include student engagement and empowerment through relevant, rigorous learning opportunities that incorporates students' voices. Our Board of Education student member represented the council on the Governor's Every Student Succeeds Act team. She provided feedback from her peers and contributed to Hawaii's blue print for education. The council also hosted a statewide Secondary Student Conference at the Capitol and at the Honolulu Hale in February. Students shared ideas and listened to government leaders on current issues. They even had a chance to talk to the Governor and Mrs. Ige! To end the year, we had a special opportunity to be a part of the selection of our new Superintendent Christina Kishimoto. This was an experience that we will never forget. A true honor for the students of Hawaii. Lastly, our members pulled together in June to go out in a big way by hosting the annual Student Leadership Conference. With nearly 400 in attendance for three days, they trained a record number in all areas of leadership, service, engagement and voice. This was a memorable and fantastic way to begin summer break.

This year, we are excited and eager to do more. We want to increase participation and empower students to take on leading roles through council committees and various activities. We plan to expand the Secondary Student Conference to a two-day workshop where students will seek resolutions to goals they set and the Student Leadership Conference will be highlighted with celebration in this 30th anniversary year. Our work begins and I am proud of the dedication and outstanding service of the members of the Hawaii State Student Council.

Conferences hosted by HSSC:

Secondary Student Conference

Student Leadership Conference



Mahalo,
/s/ Mrs. Tiffany Frias
Educational Specialist
Student Activities Program

HSSC Meeting Dates for School Year 2017-18

August 12, 2017 | September 30, 2017 | November 18, 2017 | January 27, 2018 | March 17, 2018 | May 12, 2018



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School Year 2017-2018 • August 2017

The official newsletter of the Hawai'i State Student Council

OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Welcome to Dr. Christina Kishimoto!

August 1, 2017 was the first official day for our new **Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christine M. Kishimoto**, who previously served as Superintendent/CEO of Gilbert Public Schools in Arizona.

She shared her vision for the upcoming school year and here are some highlights:

There are three approaches that I have asked our school leadership to embrace this year:

1. Being intentional about school design;
2. Engaging student voice;
3. Creating a system of teacher collaboration.

"A key component of strategic school design is the emphasis we place on student voice. When we provide ample opportunities for students to share their thoughts about what constitutes a successful school model, we create a learning organization where time, curriculum, learning approaches, programs and teaching models are flexed based on effective engagement practices and student interests." - Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto



Follow Superintendent, Dr. Kishimoto on Twitter! @HIDOE808_DrK

A Message from the BOE Student Member

Aloha,

My name is Maya Gee and I am honored to be your 2017-2018 Hawaii State Board of Education Student Member. As the first neighbor island BOE Student Member since 2005, I am ecstatic to represent the public school students of Hawaii on the Board of Education this year.

I firmly believe that a strong and effective learning environment is a critical foundation for every child and young adult. If we take the time to strengthen our education and our foundation, then we are taking the time to strengthen our future. As the BOE Student Member, I am committed to actively and effectively playing my part in making this a reality for all students.

I would like assure you that I will be an advocate for your educational concerns, ideas, and voice. I want every day to be an opportunity for you to voice your opinion, allowing me to properly voice the opinions of the public school students of Hawaii. Thus, please feel free to reach out to me through email and tell me how you believe we can strengthen our future and our keikis' future. I look forward to the year ahead and hope to hear your student voice!

Maya Gee
Hawai'i State Board of Education
Student Member 2017-18