



# OPIO

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018 EDITION

*A message from your Chairperson...*



**NEIL JOHN  
CASTANEDA**

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## Aloha Everyone,

To begin the new year I want to wish you all a *Hau'oli makahiki hou* (Happy New Year)! In addition, I would like to cordially thank all of you for all the hard work, support, and love you have given to this outstanding council. Without all your efforts the Hawaii State Student Council would not be on the pedestal it is on right now. And as we turn to the new chapter of our lives, let it be filled with happiness, joy, and laughter. It has been a pleasure so far to serve as your Hawaii State Student Council Chairperson because I have been

given the opportunity to share my story with you all and learn your stories. Our council is like a book and it is filled with "**Our Stories.**" Although each and everyone of us are scattered across the island, when put together we fly across the page leaving our mark. We have the brain, the brawn, and the creativity to overcome any obstacle. If one person comes up with an idea, another is building off that idea. Everyone understands one another, but no family is perfect, and when the going gets a little rough we have the ability to unite under one banner, one concept, one philosophy that we all hold dear to ourselves. My time in this position has finally reached its half-life, and is now looking for its new successor. I believe firmly in the phrase "Carpe Diem" which means to seize the day, and to those who want to make a difference in their school, community, and state the challenge presents itself to you, but it is your choice to take the battle. Thank you all again and have a Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil John Castaneda".

**Neil John Castaneda**  
Chairperson  
Hawaii State Student Council



## HSSC Historian Challenge

"What does Christmas mean to you?"

### **DREW DAVID'S, KAILUA HIGH SCHOOL**

"The religious meaning is the birth of Jesus Christ hence Christmas. But the meaning that all of us are practicing is the meaning of giving and love. Christmas gives a strong ending to the year and broils excitement for a new one. It gives a strong ending by us getting to feeling of getting gifted from someone and the happiness you see when you give someone a gift. It is an all around a very emotional time of the year because we reflect what happened during the year, of all of the precious memories we had. In dear we will miss them, but a new year will mean new memories. "

### **JASMINE KAMANA'O, NANAKULI HIGH SCHOOL**

"Christmas is a special Holiday. This is a day where a lot of my family members are brought together. Many people say it's all about giving gifts to the kids and spending quality time together while they open it. I agree, but I also believe Christmas has a further meaning to it. Personally, I believe Christmas is to give time up doing something for someone other than ourselves. It is a time to receive gifts, but it is also a time to give. It is a time to show love and gratitude, to help other people. So what my family and I do annually around Christmas time is giving people in need of food, or ones who need more joy in their lives. So for the ones who do have something, whether it is spirit, or gifts, Christmas time also means to give to others who aren't as fortunate as we are"

### **TESIA KIM, KALANI HIGH SCHOOL**

" Christmas means a time of giving and from a religious point of view, it means the birth of Jesus Christ. "





## HSSC Historian Challenge

"What is your New Year's resolution?"

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Student Leadership  
Conference**  
June 13-15, 2018

### HSSC MEETING DATES

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January 27, 2018  
March 17, 2018  
May 12, 2018

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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@HSSC\_Council

#### **SYDNEY SUZUKI, KONAWAENA HIGH SCHOOL**

"My new year's resolution is to further my education and knowledge in pursuit of helping those in need and implementing a solution that is personalized for them. "

#### **SEAN VILLANUEVA, RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL**

"My New Year's resolution is to be more unpredictable. Speak to people I have never spoken to before, try new things I normally wouldn't. To invite more people out to lunch. Take on a new approach towards how I do things. Basically break the old tradition and become a newer and better me."

#### **LEIRA JOYCE VEA, WAIAKEA HIGH SCHOOL**

"My New Year's resolution is to spend more time with family and friends, because I will be graduating soon and do not know where I will end up. I wouldn't know where life would take me" "

#### **ERIN GINOZA, AIEA HIGH SCHOOL**

"I want to be my best self. I want to accomplish my goals, make people smile and plan for the future "

**HAPPY 2018!**

A background of colorful fireworks exploding in the night sky, with colors ranging from blue and green to red and yellow.



*Mahalo for reading the official  
Hawaii State Student Council  
newsletter.*