



# 'OPIO

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018 EDITION

*A message from your BOE Student member.....*



**MAYA GEE**

**Aloha,**

As we approach spring break, I hope you have a wonderful break and it is time I find my successor. If you are passionate what happens in our public schools, I highly recommend you apply to be the next Board of Education Student Member. As the Board of

Education Student Member, you would represent the public school students of Hawai'i and voice their ideas and concerns to the officials of the Department of Education. I hope to see you apply this Spring and have a wonderful spring break!

Best,

**Maya Gee**

Hawai'i State Board of Education Student Member  
2017-2018

# Hawaii State Student Council



## SECONDARY STUDENT CONFERENCE

*"Courage to take the Lead"*



# Hawaii State Student Council



Thank you for having  
the **COURAGE TO TAKE**  
**THE LEAD**

# Hawaii State Student Council



## STUDENT-LED GUN VIOLENCE WALK OUT

March, 14, 2018



On March 14th, our students made a circle in the courtyard to pray for the 17 students that were killed. They also wrote little notes in memory of those 17 students.

**ERIN GINOZA, AIEA**



The students at Baldwin High School participated in a walkout that consisted of a moment of silence that honored gun violence victims, a student poem, a short speech, and a performance by young local musician Anthony Pfluke who helped deliver the Lei of Aloha to Florida.

**LILY KATZ, BALDWIN**



At Kapolei High School, we had a modified day schedule where class would end early. It was the students choice to walk out or not. Everyone gathered at the stadium where Senator Mike Gabbard and other students spoke about the purpose of the walkout.

**MICHELLE ZHENG, KAPOLEI**

# Hawaii State Student Council



It is hard to explain what I felt as I headed out to the football field during our Walkout today. I expected maybe 30 people to show up, at best. I was surprised--and touched--to see so many of my peers stand in solidarity to honor those 17 lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and protest the violence that took them. I was also very proud of my school and its student leaders, such as Destiny Souze and Mekaila Pasco, who were critical in organizing the event.

As we stood in a moment of silence for those people I remember thinking that this could've been us--our school and our families and our home--but it wasn't, and we have the power to change things so that it never has to be. In the turmoil of the month that followed the Parkland, Florida shooting, even Big Island schools received threats--a very real and scary thought to consider. Kohala High School is small, and as a result we sometimes think that our voices are small too. Our demonstration today was evidence to the fact that what we lack in numbers, we make up for in strength.

Gun violence isn't something that we should be fearing in our schools. As students, we have the right to learn in a safe environment. It is saddening to watch news of schools shootings and think, "*another one?*". My heart aches for the families and communities of those lost through preventable gun violence. Another part of me is outraged--how could our government and our people let something like this happen?

Despite conflicting opinions on how to solve the problem of gun violence, we can all agree that it is an issue that needs attention. What's really revolutionary about the day and age we live in is that we have the power, even in small communities such as ours, to speak out about the things we believe in. I was so grateful to stand among my peers today to bring awareness to the issue of gun violence and send our Aloha to those grieving across the country.

**MIRANDA CANNIFF, KOHALA**



Butterflies are the most colorful and unique creatures, one flap of their wings could generate a huge effect. we chose butterflies to stress the importance of bringing inclusiveness among our school and community. we printed out butterflies to hand out to advisory and they had to write their "promise" on how to make others feel included in the quad we had a rally where we had 17 different people each holding a flower to put into the vase to represent each victim. i read their names and biographies then we shared a moment of silence. later students signed a banner and pledged to take a stand against school violence. telling student to remember to" be the change... be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody"

**LEIRA JOYCE VEA, WAIAKEA**

# Hawaii State Student Council



At Waimea, we left it up to the students on whether or not they wanted to walkout. We gathered them in our school cafeteria to sing the Hawaiian doxology and remain in silence for 17 minutes.

**DAWSON FRANCO, WAIMEA**



We had an adjusted bell schedule and extended recess to 17 minutes. Students, aside from those in council took ownership of the different things available for student participation that day and took it up with our principal and SAC and came to agreements together. Students were able to sign banners, one for congress, and one for the school in Florida. Students were encouraged to wear orange in their support. There were also petitions going around, and students were able to use the selfie station with signs and show their support using the orange stickers and by tying strings of orange and the colors of the school's affected around their wrists.

**JESSICA DELOS REYES, MILILANI**

# Hawaii State Student Council



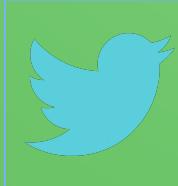
## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## HSSC MEETING DATES

March 17, 2018  
April 28, 2018:  
(SLC Facilitators only)  
May 12, 2018

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



**@HSSC\_Council**

The image consists of two photographs of a "17 Reasons Why" board. The top photograph shows a person from behind, writing on the board. The board is covered in various handwritten messages of encouragement and support. The bottom photograph shows several students standing in front of the board, looking at the messages they have written.

At Konawaena High School we had 17 minutes of silence in respect for the students who were killed in the Stoneman Douglas high school shooting. We also had a board where students could write encouraging messages to begin the change we talk so much about. We also passed out random acts of kindness where students executed the random act and pass it on to another student to create this butterfly effect of kindness throughout our school.

SYDNEY SUZUKI, KONAWAENA



Mahalo for reading the official  
Hawaii State Student Council  
newsletter.