

# 'Opio Newsletter

**Happy  
Holidays!**



THE  
**BANNER YEAR**  
December 2020 Edition

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# INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM:

## Tiffany Frias

*State Advisor*



### 2020 The Banner Year!

That's how it began back in January. It was to be absolutely momentous with births, graduations, huge milestone birthdays, 25th and 50th anniversary celebrations and more in the same year. I had been looking forward to 2020! It's never happened before and it will never happen again at least not all at once in one Banner Year! I still remember the last carefree day I had as I walked out of my office. I tidied up my desk, I looked back, took a picture and said "I'll see you in about a week or two." I was totally oblivious to the severity of the situation and the lasting impact of what was to come.

Now 8 months later, I've been back but it doesn't feel or look the same. Masks, sanitizers, everything is impeccably clean, practically sterile best describes it. A little sad for the once disastrous room bursting at the seams with paint, inflatables, clothes racks, rolls and rolls of paper, balloons, balloon arches, costumes, shave ice supplies, crockpots, chips, candy, ziplock bags, blue tape, did I mention chips? It's so quiet now. I don't run down the halls anymore or rip into the parking lot with the HSSC mobile (aka Mrs. Frias' SUV).

At first it was lonely and depressing but as the months go by I've had time to reflect and rethink about the possibilities. We continued to connect, we continued to be there for each other, we kept moving forward and we didn't just pivot. I don't care for that reference. We are not oscillating! We are thriving in the face of opportunity and seizing our chance for change. We know so much more than we did last year and so many more people too. I haven't traveled in months but I know more about cities and towns across the country from colleagues who are now friends. People we can lean on when we feel lost or need help.

While the toll of what so many have lost weighs heavily on my heart and mind, I am reminded during the holiday season of how we can lift the spirits of others through deliberate and mindful actions. I am grateful for the lessons of 2020. It has truly been a Banner Year. I am now looking forward to 2021. How will you embrace the moment and create your own Banner Year? Let it be momentous!



**YEAR IN REVIEW**

**2020**

**ALL THINGS HSSC**

**2**



## SECONDARY STUDENT CONFERENCE 2020

The 2020 Secondary Student Council (SSC) was held in January 23-25, with the theme "Be the Voice, Not the Echo". Delegates gathered to discuss issues that concerned Hawaii's public education system and learn about the legislative process.

## STATEWIDE LOCKDOWN

Back in March of this year, the State was put into a statewide lockdown after growing concerns for COVID-19.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION

In June 7th, Hunter Harris was selected to become the next Board of Education Student Representative.



# SLC REIMAGINED

The 2020 Student Leadership Conference (SLC) was held in June 5-6. This year's SLC had to be held virtually in observance of health and safety guidelines due to COVID-19.



Mrs. Tiffany Frias  
Advisor, Hawaii State Student Council

# VIRTUAL TALK STORY WITH SENATOR HIRONO

Student leaders shared their personal experiences getting through the COVID-19 pandemic with Senator Hirono.



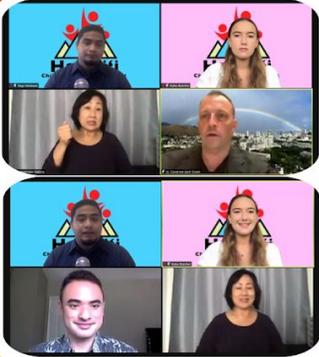
# HSSC ELECTIONS

In August 29th, the 2020-2021 Hawai'i State Student Council Executive Board Members were elected. They would have to serve during these unprecedented times



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMIT

The 2020 Student Leadership Conference (SLC) was held in June 5-6. This year's SLC had to be held virtually in observance of health and safety guidelines due to COVID-19.



## TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY VIRTUAL TRAINING

In October, Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and our state legislators listened to the ideas of youth leaders about what Hawaii needs to be a better place to live, learn, and work.



## HUNTER'S HOLIDAY MIXER

In December, BOE Student Member Hunter Harris held a conversation with other State student leaders through a special Holiday Mixer. This month, he met with the Wisconsin Association of School Councils President, Dylan Kopf.



### Hunter's HOLIDAY MIXER

Join BOE Student Member Hunter Harris and Wisconsin Association of Student Councils Interim President Dylan Kopf for a cup of hot cocoa!

Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
3:30pm • Live on Instagram

@hawaiistuco

# *Keep An Eye Out For More Activities!*

## **12** DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the days leading to Christmas (December 14-25), the Hawai'i State Student Council will be working on a 12-day series for the Holidays.

## HSSC **WEBINAR**

Council chairperson Jessica Chang will facilitate the webinar session. The session will include information sharing related to the National Student Council, the National Council of Excellence (NCOE) award, and Outstanding Student Council Award Recognition (OSCAR) program. The webinar session will be held on **Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** on WebEx