

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

July 13, 2026

**ANNUAL MEMORANDUM
ACTION REQUIRED**

TO: Complex Area Superintendents
District Educational Specialists
Hawaii'i State Public Charter School Commission Executive Director
Hawaii'i State Public Charter School Directors
Principals (All)
Vice Principals

FROM: Kinau Gardner 
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Parent Letter – Hawaii'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 19,
Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting
Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, Restitution for Vandalism, Complaint
Procedure and Investigation of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual
Harassment), Bullying and/or Retaliation

The Hawaii'i State Department of Education (Department) is committed to fostering a culturally responsive, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our students. To ensure this is communicated to all Department students, a letter is sent out annually at the beginning of each school year to all parent(s)/legal guardian(s). This letter requests parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to review the HAR Chapter 19 Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, Restitution for Vandalism, Complaint Procedure and Investigation of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), Bullying and/or Retaliation rules with their children. A link to the HAR Chapter 19 is provided in the letter for parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to reference.

All schools shall provide a copy of the attached HAR Chapter 19 parent letter to all students' parent(s)/legal guardian(s) at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Should the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) request a hard copy of the parent letter and/or HAR Chapter 19 rules, the schools shall print and provide a copy to them. The Reprographic Section will not print hard copies of the parent letter and HAR Chapter 19 rules.

Complex Area Superintendents, et al.

July 13, 2026

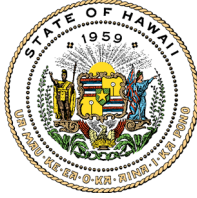
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Fern Yoshida, Administrator, Student Support Section, at 808-305-9822 or via email at fern.yoshida@k12.hi.us.

KG:fy

Attachment: Parent Letter

c: Superintendent
Deputy Superintendents
Assistant Superintendents
Complex Area Superintendents
Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission



**STATE OF HAWAII
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 13, 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) and Students:

Your child's safety and well-being are very important to us. The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) wants every student to feel safe and welcome. We are sharing this information to help you understand school rules and supports.

The Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 19 explains how schools handle student behavior. It also tells you how to report bullying or harassment. Please talk with your child about these rules so they know what to do at school. You can read the rule and find the "Chapter 19 Complaint Form" at bit.ly/HIDOE-Chapter-19. You may also make a complaint in writing or by speaking with the school, the complex area, or the Civil Rights Compliance Branch.

Students in grades 4 through 12 can use the free Speak Now app to report bullying without giving their name. You can find it on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. To learn more, visit bit.ly/HIDOE-Speak-Now.

Along with these rules, the Department also provides the following:

- School Safety Drills: Students practice what to do in an emergency. To learn more, visit bit.ly/HIDOE-Keeping-Our-Schools-Safe.
- Social and Emotional Learning: Students build skills to get along with others and feel like they belong. To learn more, visit bit.ly/HIDOE_SEL.
- Student Behavior, Mental Health, and Overall Well-Being: The Department works to create safe, welcoming schools and to provide services for students who need support. To learn more, visit bit.ly/HIDOE-Here-to-HELP.

Should you have questions and/or would like a copy of the HAR Chapter 19, please contact your child's school administrator. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent, is written over the name and title.

Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

KH:fy
c: Office of Student Support Services