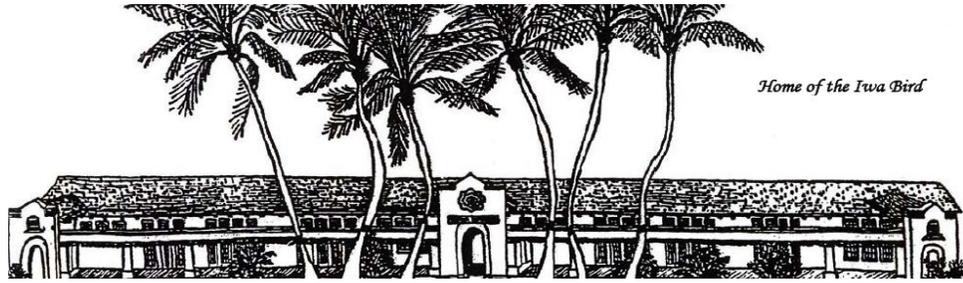


# Hale`iwa Elementary School



**Ke aka o Hale`iwa ...Kupono me ke aloha no ke ahona o ke ao**

The ESSENCE of Hale`iwa...Live life to the fullest with honor, respect, kindness and love to make the world a better place

September 19, 2020

Dear Hale`iwa Families,

This past week, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Governor and Superintendent Kishimoto held a joint press conference to detail the new DOH metrics that will assist the DOE in making decisions about when and how to gradually reopen our schools. The full guidance from the Department of Health can be found at this link: [Hawaii COVID-19](#)

An essential element in the DOH guidance is the biweekly update to the metrics that provide the specific guidance of what kind of learning model DOE schools should be following. This information can be found at this link: [Disease Outbreak Control Division | COVID-19 | Current Situation in Hawaii](#)

The most recent guidance was posted on September 17, 2020. The next scheduled update should be published on Friday, October 2 by 12:00pm. According to the metrics posted on September 17, the DOH recommends that Oahu elementary schools can operate under a “blended learning” model. The DOH defines blended learning as a “*Combined approach of rotating in-person attendance and learning from home (decreases in-person class size and allows + physical distancing)*”.

The DOH also defines specific requirements for “blended learning” :

- School facilities at 50% capacity
- Transportation at 50% capacity
- Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the model
- Plan to incorporate and continually reinforce routines of hygiene education and safe practices

During the press conference this past week, the Superintendent also emphasized that all schools would be making a **gradual transition** to any learning model that is different from our current “Distance Learning for most” approach.

So that our families can make plans for the transition, we wanted to update you on what you can expect from Hale`iwa. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working on what our “blended learning” plan will look like. It will involve sending surveys to all of our families again to

determine which students would like to continue with 100% distance learning and which families are comfortable with sending their child(ren) back to school. Knowing those numbers are essential to Hale`iwa being able to effectively plan for the transition. We will also be engaging in discussions with our faculty and staff and working with our complex schools to ensure that we are all on the same page.

**Our tentative target date for making the transition to a blended learning model is Monday, October 26.** This is the ***soonest*** that we would start any blended learning model, but **it is NOT a guaranteed start date since it will depend on what the DOH metrics dictate at that time.** Since the DOH should be sending out an update on the metrics on Friday, October 16, it is Hale`iwa's hope to provide all families with definitive information by Monday, October 19.

For planning purposes, all families should prepare for "status quo" until at least Friday, October 23. This means that all students who are participating through distance learning will continue in that mode until October 23. Likewise, our students who are coming to school for face to face instruction for reasons determined by each student's individual needs, will continue to come to campus everyday until October 23. Please contact us by email at [haleiwaschool@haleiwa.k12.hi.us](mailto:haleiwaschool@haleiwa.k12.hi.us) or at 637-8237 if you have any questions about all of this information.

**Finally, our entire faculty and staff would like to extend our very sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of the support and patience that our Hale`iwa parents and families have shown us during this first quarter.** Our teachers have worked extremely hard to provide quality distance learning instruction. But we know that we have been plagued by numerous technical difficulties from problems with chromebooks, connectivity issues, online platforms like "Wonders online" not saving students' hard work, and other problems that were really beyond the control of our teachers. Our tech team of Mr. Pai, Mr. Puha and Mrs. Yamakawa have tried their best to address the numerous problems that have popped up. We have been successful in addressing some of the problems, but admittedly, there are still glitches that continue to affect our students.

**Parents, grandparents, big brothers and sisters and extended family members who have helped our Hale`iwa students to log on, navigate and figure out what to do for distance learning -- THANK YOU! We know that you have all worked extremely hard also to support your child's learning. We are so grateful for your assistance, support and above all, your patience!** As a very small token of our appreciation, we would like to invite all families to a "Family appreciation" drive-through event on Friday, October 2. We will have a small treat/gift for each family for helping us to make it through this first quarter. More details will be shared shortly.

We hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy. We look forward to the day when we are able to welcome our students and families safely back to campus. Please take care!

Sincerely,

Malaea Wetzel  
Principal