



We Are

a non-profit organization dedicated to public education equity and excellence, founded 11 years ago in response to Furlough Fridays.

We Work

To improve and support public education in Hawai`i by increasing family and community engagement, surveying, informing, holding school and virtual events and conducting parent engagement training.

With key decision makers to advocate for policies that increase educational opportunities for parents, families, and children. with our partners and directly, we represent family views and needs to the BOE, DOE staff, and to legislators.

As a member of the HE'E coalition supporting excellence in education, Hawaii Children's Action Network advocating for children, and the Broadband Hui, working for digital equity for all Hawaii families.

Supporting School Community Councils (SCC's) and holding School & Covid Talk Story events to hear family concerns and hopes.

Please join - it is free - just go to ppshi.org and click "join" to receive newsletters, surveys, and updates. Also see us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube. We have not hit Tiktok yet.



Family Experience of Covid & Learning

[Our Apr- May 2020 Family Survey](#) Device and Internet needs, Teaching and communication inconsistencies, motivation, social emotional and special ed concerns

[Hawaii DOE / Panorama Ed July 2020 Distance Learning Survey Report](#)

31% of teachers had previously taught online “There is a need to build out a robust distance learning approach as a permanent innovation, through expansion of the platform, quality digital content, and training for all teachers and leaders.”

[Hawaii DOE / Panorama Ed Family Survey Result](#)

Family preferences for fall 2020 instruction: Distance learning= 17%, Hybrid= 39%, In Person = 45%

[Our Aug- Sept 2020 Family Survey](#) Social emotional, motivation, and engagement concerns. Continued Teaching and communication inconsistencies, inadequacies of distance learning.



What Are We Hearing Here Now

from in-person and virtual meetings, survey responses, email, social media, phone

- 😊 Delight that most children are able to go to school, see teachers and friends
- 😊 Gratitude for how hard administrators and teachers have worked through this period
- 😬 Understanding that this is hard for the DOE especially with leadership change in the crisis
- 😬 Hope that there is a plan
- 😬 Desire to understand the safety protocols
- 😬 Concern at inconsistent safety protocols – no social distancing at lunch, cohorts not working
- 😬 Worry children will miss more school with in person than distance learning (quarantines)
- 😬 Discomfort being told to decide and stick to one learning approach given uncertain future.
- 😬 Some students learned more and had less stress with distance learning
- 😬 Many students are stressed with worry about getting covid and about bringing it home
- 😬 Children afraid to take their masks off at lunch



What Are We Hearing Now continued...

from in-person and virtual meetings, survey responses, email, social media, phone

- 🙄 Parents are keeping kids home if they fear any possible illness
- 😲 HI DOE says only 1-3% want distance learning – parents say they were not asked
- 🤔 Need easier covid testing
- 🤔 Need better contact tracing
- 😞 Concern for lack of special education services
- 😞 Concern about crowds
- 😞 Concern that emergency monies may not be spent on health and safety protocols
- 😞 Inconsistent distance learning offerings by schools
- 😡 Anger at the lack of learning options and flexibility
- 😡 Anger that a commitment was made to in person learning without a back up plan
- 😡 No Honolulu gatherings > 10 inside/25 outside – BUT many classes > 20+ Lunch many more

We need a Strategic Plan with Consistency, Options, and Flexibility



Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i COVID School Statement

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i (PPS Hawai'i) supports in-person learning where CDC standards can be achieved consistently. We support the option of hybrid and distance learning options for students, families and teachers when those solutions better meet health and learning needs.

Students and families have been happy and relieved to get back to in-person learning for this school year. However, health concerns and difficulties meeting safe protocols raise questions about in-person learning for some students and teachers at some schools.

The COVID pandemic is an incredibly fluid and dynamic situation. Our government officials need to respond in accordance with the threat level that the virus poses to the public health risks on each island.



Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i

COVID School Statement continued

Our Hawai'i Board and Department of Education must prioritize and champion public health in each school and classroom and provide needed alternatives.

We must all work for safe, equitable, effective public education for all of Hawaii's keiki and their families.

PPS Hawai'i knows that in-person learning is the most effective education for most students. Thus, we support most students attending school in person IF the conditions set out by the Hawai'i DOE COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for 2021-22 (in accordance with the CDC) and the Governor's call for vaccination for all governmental employees, including public school staff, are met.



Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i

COVID School Statement continued

HAWAI'I

GOV IGE - Vaccination or Ongoing Testing for all gov. employees

HI DOE COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for 2021-22:

Core Essential Strategies (for all situations across all schools)

- A) Promote vaccination of staff and eligible students
- B) Stay home if sick and go home if sick at school
- C) Correct and consistent masking
- D) Hand hygiene

Additional Mitigation Strategies (implemented by schools as completely as possible)

- E) 'Ohana bubbles or cohorting
- F) Improving ventilation
- G) Physical distancing
- H) Screening testing
- I) Cleaning and disinfection



HAWAI'I

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i

COVID School Statement – Our Hopes

Given the growing risks, reports of inconsistent health protocols, and the pleas from families for options, we urge the Hawaii DOE to:

- 1) Provide consistent safe conditions for students and teachers
- 2) Spend emergency funds to ensure safety – meet safety protocols and contact tracing needs.
- 3) Deliver Options to Hawai'i Families – in-person, hybrid, and full distance learning
- 4) Negotiate teacher work agreements – to reflect current needs
- 5) Plan for any eventuality – develop effective integrated systems for teaching and learning, communications, and district operations.