



State of Hawaii
Ka'ōhāo Public Charter School
140 Alala Road
Kailua, HI 96734

September 24, 2020

Aloha Ka'ōhāo School 'Ōhana,

We have been closely following the guidance of our public health authorities, and educational leaders along with listening to the needs of our school 'ōhana. Every day it breaks our hearts to not see your childr/en's smiling faces in person. We empathize with the stresses you're experiencing. We all want each and every precious student to be safely back on campus, under the right conditions, and the right time. The resiliency of our parents and educators is inspiring to our state, nation, and above all to our young people.

In the recently released Department of Health guidelines, there are many facets to consider for reopening campus to students. Our school planned early to take effective measures to protect against the spread of COVID-19, and I am proud of the efforts made by our faculty and staff. However, there are also considerations in these guidelines that are currently out of our control. One example is the Department of Health's(DOH) ability to quickly provide contract tracing should there be positive cases. The Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Area recently announced plans to continue the current distance learning until winter break. The current guidelines call for charter schools to follow the model designated by the Complex Area Superintendent. Our charter commission is in discussions with the DOH on changes, but have not officially come to a resolution. We will not know when the resolution will occur. With a few days left before Fall Break, we feel it is best to plan ahead for our students, rather than wait. We have come to the difficult conclusion to ask our families to also plan on continuing distance learning until Thursday, December 17, 2020.

I would like to invite you to join me at any of the parent session dates below to share your thoughts as we plan for the future. Please use this link to join bit.ly/KaohaoParent.

Friday, September 25th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

Saturday, September 26th at 10:00 am

Monday, September 28th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

I understand that the decision to continue distance learning will have a big impact on your families. Our Ka'ōhāo educators, many with their own children, are right there in the trenches with you trying to figure out how to move forward together during these unprecedented times. We are committed to the well-being and learning of your child. We will continue our efforts to bring back students safely into classrooms and on campus. Please stay safe.

Mahalo,
Winston Y. Sakurai, Ed.D
Ka'ōhāo School Director