



Hawai'i State Student Council

The Hawai'i State Student Council, with representation from across our great state, has 42 committed student leaders representing each of our secondary schools. Flying in from neighbor islands to come together on O'ahu, many of our student leaders rise as early as 4 a.m. on many Saturdays throughout the school year to arrive on time and work together on important issues that impact students. During these meetings, they also engage in peer training around powerful learning practices.

Among their topics, the Council leadership provided peer training around the five components of the [Design Thinking Framework](#) as an effective teaching and learning practice and a student empowerment model. Engaging in their work by district teams and by committees, this highly organized leadership council documents their work and engages in research using their laptops and the Google platform to organize an agenda with links to resources to keep them focused and on schedule. Suited up in professional attire and presenting their work to one another throughout the day as they create new knowledge and understanding, the Council delivers with an executive leadership style that is not only admirable but serves as a model for executive leadership practice.



Hawai'i State Student Council members collaborating at their Sept. 30 meeting on O'ahu.

I had the distinct pleasure of joining our Student Council this past Saturday to engage in a discussion and input session around our second of three statewide priorities: **Student Voice**. The discussion was deep and thoughtful with concrete feedback around personalized learning, design thinking, social-emotional-learning, Na Hopena A'o, and peer feedback approaches in the classroom.

One significant topic of conversation was about the opportunity that students would like to have around curriculum, elective and core course development, including project designs and student created assessments. Student leaders shared their perspective that student input on new course development and course reviews can significantly improve the relevance of the materials, projects, and overall course designs. This is student voice!

The Council made a commitment to align the work of their committees this school year to the priorities of our [Hawai'i Strategic Implementation Plan](#), and thus will provide continuous feedback throughout the year.

I came away from our time together encouraged by the mindset of our students who desire to be a key part of our learning organization with a significant design voice. And what will this yield us? Thoughtful, integrated, powerful leadership that advances the work of public education to serve the needs of all students. This is the power of Student Voice that we are just beginning to tap into.

Designing Schools for Hawai'i's Future

In partnership with 'Olelo Community Media, the Hawai'i DOE will be hosting a panel discussion titled "Designing Schools for Hawai'i's Future" on Tuesday, Oct. 3 that I will participate in, and will also feature the following panelists:

- Governor David Ige
- Chairperson Lance Mizumoto, Hawaii State Board of Education
- Principal Keith Hayashi, Waipahu High School
- Stephanie Mew, 2016 State Teacher of the Year, Kapunahala Elementary
- Ian Kitajima, Oceanit (moderator)

The program will air on Channel 49 and will also be streamed live at www.olelo.org/49. Maui's Akaku will air it live on Channel 54. The program will also be available for viewing on 'Olelo Video On-Demand Channel 52, as well as at www.youtube.com/olelocm and on olelo.org/olelonet within 48 hours of the live airing. Please tune in!

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This email was sent to all Hawai'i DOE staff.