

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HAWAII DISTRICT OFFICE
75 AUPUNI STREET, ROOM 203
HILO, HI 96720

March 7, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE), with the support of the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), completed a soil study at 23 schools on the east side of Hawaii Island. Eighteen schools, including the school your child attends, tested positive for arsenic, organochlorine and/or lead present in the soil. We are sharing the following information out of an abundance of caution and want to reassure you that **exposure to these contaminants is preventable**.

This issue of contamination is not unique to schools and could persist around any older home or building. We need to be vigilant and understand how to protect ourselves and our children from these chemicals. Please see the attached fact sheet from DOH for more information and helpful tips.

HIDOE worked with DOH to create school-specific plans to minimize lead exposure to students and staff. Areas found to have the highest soil contamination were immediately addressed with containment measures, and mitigation efforts are continuing at some campuses. Containment measures have included the removal and proper disposal of impacted soil; planting of clean soil, ground cover or pavers; and restricted access to affected areas.

The 18 impacted Hawaii Island schools are:

- DeSilva Elementary (arsenic and lead)
- Haaheo Elementary (lead)
- Hilo High (lead)
- Hilo Intermediate (lead)
- Hilo Union Elementary (chlordan and lead)
- Kalaniana'ole Elementary & Intermediate (lead)
- Kapiolani Elementary (arsenic, chlordan and lead)
- Kau High & Pahala Elementary (chlordan and lead)
- Kaumana Elementary (lead)
- Keaau Middle (arsenic and lead)
- Keaukaha Elementary (lead)
- Laupahoehoe High & Elementary (lead)
- Mountain View Elementary (lead)
- Naalehu Elementary & Intermediate (lead)
- Pahoa Elementary (chlordan and lead)
- Pahoa High & Intermediate (arsenic, chlordan and lead)
- Waiakea Intermediate (arsenic)
- Waiakeawaena Elementary (chlordan and lead)

Parents concerned about exposures may contact the 24-7 Hawai'i Poison Center Hotline at (800) 222-1222 or consult with their child's doctor. We appreciate your help as we work together to keep all of our students safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad K. Farias".

Chad K. Farias
Complex Area Superintendent