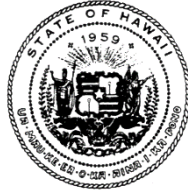


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

February 21, 2019

Dear Hilo Complex families,

The safety and security of our schools cannot be understated. When we received word of a threat to Hilo Intermediate this afternoon, the Hawaii Police Department (HPD) was immediately notified. A few hours later, a follow up post retracted the threat and said it was a joke.

All threats to our schools and students are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly. Terroristic threats are considered Class A student conduct offenses. Penalties can range from detention to dismissal with the possibility of arrest and serious criminal charges. I urge students and families to refrain from reposting threats. According to law enforcement, reposting a threat is as good as making the threat itself and contributes to carrying on the initial threat.

Out of an abundance of caution, additional department security and HPD officers will be present at Hilo Intermediate tomorrow. All Hilo Complex schools will be open and there will be no change in schedules.

As with any emergency-type situation, we are striving to balance the need for safety with our overall commitment to provide students and families with every sense of normalcy. We appreciate your help as we work together to keep all of our students safe. Should you have any concerns, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Chad Farias
Complex Area Superintendent
Kau-Keaau-Pahoa & Hilo-Waiakea