February 27, 2020

Dear Mililani High students, staff, parents and guardians:

After the School Messenger alert went out this evening, it was brought to my attention that there are concerns with the decision to keep school open tomorrow. I’m following up to reassure you that we do not take the safety of our students and staff lightly.

The text messages portrayed in the screenshots reflect a third-party misinterpretation of a conversation that was partially overheard. We are also aware of images of an individual being circulated along with these screenshots; however, due to student privacy laws, we are unable to provide additional information. All of this has been forwarded to law enforcement. HPD was contacted and came to school immediately to investigate.

The images and text message strings being circulated on social media were provided to the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and FBI. HPD thoroughly investigated and subsequently advised us that the threat is not credible.

All threats to our school and students are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and immediately. Terroristic threats are considered Class A student conduct offenses. Penalties can range from detention to suspension with the possibility of arrest and serious criminal charges.

I understand that our school community is in the midst of healing from Monday’s incident and that this alleged threat adds to the already heightened level of anxiety. As a member of this community for more than 47 years, I care deeply about our students, staff and their families and would never jeopardize our safety.

The decision to keep school open was made after lengthy discussions with the Department’s Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch as well as state and complex-level leadership. We are continuing discussions through the evening to ensure campus safety.

If you see a threatening post on social media, please take a screenshot and report it to law enforcement as well as the social media platforms on which they are made. Refrain from reposting the threat. According to law enforcement, reposting a threat is as serious as making the threat itself — it breathes life into the initial post.

It will take time to heal from this week’s events and now is the time for us to come together and support one another.

Sincerely,

Fred Murphy
Principal