

# Hale`iwa Elementary School

1871–2021

Celebrating 150 years of serving the children of Hale`iwa



Ke aka o Hale`iwa ...Kupono me ke aloha no ke ahona o ke ao

July 27, 2021

Aloha Hale`iwa Families,

There is only one more week before the official first day of school on Tuesday, August 3. We hope your children are as excited about returning to school as we are to have them back. To help everyone prepare for the opening, we wanted to send you some important reminders along with updates to our health and safety practices for COVID-19.

As we mentioned in our last letter, **the school's office will be closed from 7:30 to 2:00pm on Wednesday, July 28 so that our office staff can join our opening of the school year meeting.** The office will reopen at 2:00pm and stay open until 5:00pm.

**Our "Meet and Greet" will be on the same day (Wednesday, July 28) from 3:00 to 5:00pm.** This is a time for families to drop off their child(ren)'s school supplies and to meet their teacher. To keep everyone safe, please assist us by following these guidelines:

- **Everyone must be wearing a mask when they come onto campus.**
- **We will limit the number of people in the classroom at any time to no more than 10 people total.** This includes all staff members and students. When you arrive at your child's class, if there are 10 people in the room, please wait outside until someone leaves and the teacher invites you into the classroom. Please be mindful of social distancing while waiting outside.
- Because of the limited number of people allowed in the classroom at one time, please do not use the "Meet and Greet" to conference with the teacher. If you would like to discuss anything with the teacher, please inform your teacher so that he/she can call you at a later time.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with following our "Meet and Greet" guidelines.

On Monday, July 26, the [Hawaii Department of Health released its most recent guidance for schools](#). It is important to note that while the DOH guidance is followed by our schools, the HDOE also creates its own guidelines based on the DOH guidance. **In the past versions of the HDOE's health and safety guidelines, there were instances when the DOE's requirements were stricter than the DOH.** Because the DOH only released its guidance on Monday, the DOE still needs time to develop its guidelines. As a result, at this time, [the latest version of the DOE guidelines are from May 3, 2021](#).

Considering all of this information, Hale`iwa will continue to follow the DOE guidelines from May 3, 2021, BUT, we are adjusting our practices where appropriate based on the DOH guidance from July 26. To help families understand our current practices, Hale`iwa has developed its "[Interim COVID Protocols as of July 26, 2021](#)" document. As soon as any new guidance from the DOE becomes available, Hale`iwa will adjust its practices to align with the DOE requirements.

This year Hale`iwa will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Established in 1871, we are proud that Hale`iwa Elementary has been able to serve the children of our community for over a century and a half. Please stay tuned for more information about different ways we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary.

Finally, even though COVID-19 continues to impact how we do business at the school, we are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to campus. We are filled with optimism and excitement as we embark on a fresh start and new beginning of this school year. We will do our best to make it a GREAT school year for all. Thank you for being a part of our Hale`iwa family.

Sincerely,

Malaea Wetzel  
Principal