




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

ACTION

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

June 19, 2018

TO: Complex Area Superintendents
District Educational Specialists
Principals (All)
Vice Principals (All)
School Administrative Services Assistants
School Renewal Specialists
School Health Assistants

FROM: Donna Lum Kagawa 
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Negative Health Impact of Electronic Smoking Devices

The safety and well-being of all our students is a high priority. Towards this end, the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) will be working in partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) to educate our youth to make positive decisions about their health and habits. Specifically, we are working towards awareness about the risks and dangers of the growing use of e-cigarettes otherwise known as electronic smoking devices (ESDs). Our efforts will focus on:

- Prevention and education regarding the harmful effects of e-cigarettes;
- Collecting survey data on Hawaii's youth and their usage of e-cigarettes;
- Public awareness on Act 122 passed in 2015 which makes it unlawful for anyone under 21 years of age to be sold, purchase, use or possess e-cigarettes; and
- Monitoring the enforcement of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 8, Chapter 19, Relating to Smoking.

INFORMATION:

E-cigarettes/ESDs are battery-powered smoking devices that use cartridges filled with a liquid (e-liquid or e-juice) that contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. Nicotine is an addictive tobacco product that can harm the developing brain. Youth who use ESDs may be inhaling harmful ingredients such as ultrafine particles, flavorings that can cause serious lung disease, flammable chemicals, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead.

There is a growing prominence and rapid popularity both nationally and among our youth in Hawaii with the use of e-cigarettes or vaping. The results of the 2017 school-based Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for high and middle school students reflect the high rate of usage, experimentation (ever used), and current usage across counties:

	Hawaii	Honolulu	Kauai	Maui	State
High School Ever Used	49.6%	39.0%	45.3%	50.7%	42.3%
High School Currently Using	34.1%	22.0%	31.3%	32.3%	25.5%
Middle School Ever Used	35.8%	23.8%	30.0%	32.1%	27.0%
Middle School Currently Using	23.0%	13.4%	18.5%	18.3%	15.7%

Source: 2017 YRBS E-cigarette use by high school and middle school students by county and state.

E-cigarettes/ESDs and Standards-Based Health Education

Comprehensive standards-based health education equips students with functional knowledge and skills to engage in healthy behaviors and practices. One of the seven health topics addressed in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS III) for Health is promoting a Tobacco-Free Lifestyle. Within health education, emphasis is placed on developing students' skills for maintaining and enhancing their own well-being and the health of others (i.e., accessing information, analyzing influences, interpersonal communication, decision-making, goal-setting, self-management, and advocacy) through meaningful practice and application.

More information about HCPS III for health and resources may be found on the Standards Toolkit at: <http://165.248.107.74/hcpsv3/>,
Intranet at: <https://intranet.hawaiipublicschools.org/offices/ociss/programs/health>, or
Internet page for Wellness Guidelines at:
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/WellnessGuidelines/Pages/home.aspx>.

Further information regarding E-cigarettes/ESDs may be found at:
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/electronic-cigarettes-e-cigarettes>
https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Fact_Sheet_508.pdf
<https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/resources.html>

E-cigarettes/ESDs and Chapter 19

E-cigarettes/ESDs are considered contraband on school campuses. Students who bring such devices to school are subject to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8, Chapter 19 disciplinary consequences.

SCHOOL ACTION:

To provide parent(s)/legal guardian(s) with information on the negative effects of e-cigarettes/ESDs, please print and enclose the attached Parents/Legal Guardians letter in students' Opening School Year packets to be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Complex Area Superintendents, et al.
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Should there be any questions, please contact Ms. Lyndia K. Uchimura, Educational Specialist, School Health Section, at (808) 305-9787 or via Lotus Notes; or Ms. Sheli Suzuki, Educational Specialist, Student Support Section, at (808) 305-9787 or via Lotus Notes.

DLK:lsr
Attachment

c: Superintendent
Assistant Superintendents
Superintendent's Office Directors



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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

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Parents/Legal Guardians

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Should you need any additional information, please contact Sheli Suzuki, Educational Specialist, Student Support Section, at (808) 305-9787 or via email at sheli_suzuki@notes.k12.hi.us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:ss