



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

The safety and well being of all our students is a high priority. Towards this end, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) will work in partnership with the 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.

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.

E-cigarettes 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, and can harm the developing brain. Youth who use it 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.

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	Hawai'i	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

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

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