JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻONAʻAUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 7, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) cares about your keiki and is aware that there are numerous social pressures and misinformation about the devastating impact of tobacco and e-cigarette products. As such, the Department is committed to working with you to keep your keiki away from these products. Please talk to your keiki about making healthy choices and what the law is regarding these products for persons under the age of 21.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §712-1258, it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to purchase or possess any tobacco product or electronic smoking device (ESD). An ESD is defined as any electronic product that can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device. This includes but is not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.

In addition, any tobacco product and ESD found in a student's possession is a violation of Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 19 and shall be seized by school administration in accordance with the memorandum dated August 1, 2022, Disposal of Hazardous Material and Electronic Smoking Devices Procedures.

Should you have further questions, please talk to your keiki's school administration.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

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