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

NIU VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
310 Halemaumau Street
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96821

August 7, 2025

Aloha Niu Valley Middle School Families,

Welcome to the start of our 2025-2026 school year! As we launch this year with our new logo, we are messaging to our students the importance of celebrating who they are and no matter where they are from, we want them to unite and to carry themselves with humility, the pride in being students from Niu Valley Middle School.

A significant part of who we are rests with our beliefs and our actions. We strive to have all stakeholders embrace our school's vision of **inspiring compassionate learners who live aloha and make a difference**. In line with our vision, our theme for this school year comes from the Japanese word "**omoiyari**".

Omoiyari is the feeling of helping another by thinking of what it feels like to be in their shoes, being considerate, and empathizing with them. It is the feeling of wanting to do something for another. More than just feeling empathy however, we want our students to take action on their feelings.

Upcoming Events
We invite you to join us in a number of exciting events designed to promote family engagement:

- August 21 (Thursday) @5:00-7:15PM - Open House for Grades 6-8
- September 19 (Friday) @8:15-9:15AM - Principal Talk-Story Session
- September 26 (Friday) @5:00-8:00PM - Our Annual "Fam Jam" Sponsored by Friends of Niu Valley

Student Support
Besides communicating with your child's teachers, feel free to reach out to your child's grade level Vice Principal (VP) and Counselor if we can be of any service. Former VP Marlyn Hutton is now in a new role within the DOE where she is currently assigned as a Temporary Assignment Principal in the Farrington Complex. We thank her for her tremendous service to our school. This year our VPs and Counseling Department are assigned to support students and families as follows:

- Grade 6 (Team A): Ms. Lisa Mendonca, VP (lisa.mendonca@k12.hi.us) & Ms. Maya Dougherty, Counselor (maya.dougherty@k12.hi.us)
- Grade 6 (Team B): Mr. Kekoa Carvalho, VP (kekoa.carvalho@k12.hi.us) & Ms. Maya Dougherty, Counselor
- Grade 7: Mr. Kekoa Carvalho, VP & Mr. Gavin Yaji, Counselor (gavin.yaji@k12.hi.us)
- Grade 8: Ms. Lisa Mendonca, VP & Ms. Valerie Fujitani, Counselor (valerie.fujitani@k12.hi.us)

Mahalo for entrusting us with your child's education and thank you for being a part of our wonderful school ʻohana. Certainly, feel free to call me at (808) 307-6800 or email me at jeffrey.shitaoka@k12.hi.us if I can be of any service. We embrace your child, we embrace your family, and together, let's continue to strive for excellence.

Kind regards,

Jeffrey Shitaoka
Principal