



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIAKEA HIGH SCHOOL
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MR. KELCY KOGA
PRINCIPAL

March 8, 2021

Dear Warrior Community:

As our State plans to prepare students for the return to learning process, it is with much conflict that I announce to all that Waiakea High School will continue our distance learning model for the remainder of school year 2020 - 2021. This decision did not come easily as many have differing opinions of what it means to be safe against the spread of the COVID 19 Virus.

When examining the remainder of the academic calendar for this school year, the earliest we would be able to accommodate in person learning would be April 5, 2021. That date comes after the Department of Education's requirement of administering the ACT College Exam and the Smarter Balanced Assessment for 11th graders. Implementation of a blended learning schedule from April 5 until the end of the school year would mean that students would meet with their teachers at most on 8 occasions. Further modifications that divided the student population into one-third or one-fourth of the student body would mean less meeting times and less direct instruction for students. Staying the course on our current distance learning model ensures that students see their teachers daily, receive synchronous instruction, while also following the same schedule that they would if all students were back for, in-person instruction. As for next school year, we are examining other blended learning models that could be implemented from the start of the year to better transition all of our students.

For those with connection issues and other academic difficulties, a third learning hub will be opened on Monday, March 22, 2021 at the WHS gym. Please contact your student's counselor for more information.

Waiakea High School continuously appreciates your support as we navigate through these ever changing times. We know this has not been easy, and we thank you for supporting our school as we do everything we can to help every student succeed.

With Warrior Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelcy Koga".

Kelcy Koga, Principal
#WaiakeaWarriorStrong