



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE

May 15, 2026

Dear Ali'iolani Students, Staff and School Community,

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Temporarily Assigned Principal Jennifer Ichiyama-Bengan for her dedicated service and leadership at Ali'iolani Elementary during the 2025–2026 school year. Her steady guidance, thoughtful decision-making, and unwavering commitment to students and staff helped foster a strong sense of stability, care, and support throughout the school community. We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and expertise she devoted to Ali'iolani Elementary.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the entire Ali'iolani staff. Thank you for warmly opening your doors and sharing your campus with the Hōkūlani 'ohana for the last 2 months of school. During a time of great need, both school communities came together with compassion, flexibility, and teamwork. Through this experience, we strengthened our partnership and remain connected and bonded as one team.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Leonard Padayhag back to Ali'iolani Elementary effective June 1, 2026. After thoughtful consideration, Principal Padayhag has made the decision to return to lead Ali'iolani for the 2026-2027 school year. While we maintain the highest standards for confidentiality regarding personnel matters, we are grateful for his choice to continue his dedicated service to our school community. We look forward to the year ahead with optimism, unity, and a shared commitment to supporting students, staff, and families under his leadership.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and rejuvenating summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Dilwith".

L. Dilwith, KMR CAS