



MidWeek

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New school year underway

It's back to school this week for virtually all of Hawaii's public school students, heading for their campuses where dedicated teachers have already been preparing their classrooms and lesson plans for a week. A new school year is always a time of anticipation and excitement – at least it is in our family households where grandchildren look forward to new teachers, new schoolmates and new learning experiences.

The 2017-2018 school year marks new beginnings in other ways. The Department of Education welcomes a new Superintendent of Education – **Dr. Christina Kishimoto** – who officially started her tenure on August 1st. I welcome opportunities to meet the new Superintendent to share my enthusiasm for the ways Hawaii, our schools and our students are unique in many respects.

Dr. Christina Kishimoto
Superintendent, Hawaii Department of Education



Dr. Kishimoto and DOE administrators will be making the transition to new guidelines developed by the Board of Education's Strategic Plan, along with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that seeks to give states more autonomy in meeting educational goals.

Be prepared!



The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HEMA, formerly State Civil Defense) has revised its recommended guidelines for island residents to make sure we're all prepared for disasters. With the season's first few tropical storms developing in the Central Pacific and the National Weather Service predicting an active storm season through the end of November, HEMA now says it's a good idea to have a two-week supply of food, water and other necessities on hand.

I sponsored a disaster preparedness town hall meeting last month to share important tips with the audience. Mahalo to Dennis Hwang, hazard mitigation specialist from the UH Sea Grant program, Toby Clairmont of HEMA, and Susan Ihle of State Farm for being our presenters. You can update your emergency plan and check out the list of suggested supplies at the HEMA website: [http://](http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/)

dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/ . This is a great resource for information about how you can keep you and your ohana safe during a natural disaster.

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Teriyaki poke!

Kudos to the **Waipahu High School Culinary Academy!** I attended a public affairs forum a couple of weeks ago and was so pleased to learn that Marauder chefs-in-training are dedicating part of their summer to food preparation for community events such as this one. These young men and women have been extremely creative in their career training program.



A favorite (at left) teriyaki poke served on a won ton spoon!

Mahalo to Culinary Academy **Elaine Matsuo** for working with our students even when school is not in session. Great work!