

# WEAPON-FREE SCHOOL ZONE

# Be Cool

# and Keep

# our

# School

# Safe



**Should I bring a BB/air/paintball gun to school, I will be dismissed and won't be able to attend school for one calendar year.**



**Only the Superintendent of Education,  
on a case-by-case basis,  
may modify a student's dismissal.**





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. Box 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great concern that I ask you to please discuss with your child/children the dangers of bringing any firearm to school. Firearms such as BB guns, air guns, or paintball guns are strictly prohibited in school and do not belong in your child's backpack, on the school bus, and/or at any school-related activities.

Should your child bring a firearm to school, he/she shall be removed from attending school for not less than one calendar year. Only by my review on a case-by-case basis, can the length of this dismissal be modified. "Firearm" as defined by Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 8, Chapter 19 Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, and Restitution for Vandalism means:

- (1) Any weapon including but is not limited to a starter gun, shotgun, air guns which includes BB guns, pellet guns, paintball guns, or cross bow or any other instrument which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile;
- (2) The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- (3) Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
- (4) Any destructive device. The term "destructive device" means:
  - a. Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas:
    - i. Bomb;
    - ii. Grenade;
    - iii. Rocket having a propellant charge;
    - iv. Missile having an explosive or incendiary charge;
    - v. Mine; or
    - vi. Device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clause;
  - b. Any type of weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to expel a projectile, including but is not limited to a weapon that expels a projectile by action of an explosive or other propellant; or
  - c. Any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

"Be Cool and Keep Our School Safe" is our annual statewide campaign to remind you and your child/children of the consequence for a firearms violation. Please discuss the attached flyer with your child/children, emphasizing personal safety, appropriate safe school behaviors, and consequences for any firearms violations. In addition, always be aware of what your child/children are doing and what they may be bringing to school in their backpacks.

Should you have any questions, please contact your school principal. Thank you for helping to keep our Hawaii schools safe for all your children and school community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matayoshi", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
Superintendent

KSM:ar

Attachment