



Teachers Shaping
Hawaii's Future Today

Educator Connection

Virtual Hallway Chats Feature Local Thought Leaders

More than 60 statewide attendees convened on Zoom on October 15 for the Hawaii Education Association's first Educator Connection event, "Sparking Our Passion," which provided teachers, administrators, students and retired educators with an opportunity to dialogue about transforming teaching during the pandemic.

Moderated by Hawaii News Now co-anchor **Steve Uyehara**, the virtual event on Zoom featured three panelists:



Kecia McDonald, a resource teacher from the Hawaii Department of Education West Hawaii Complex, spoke about the Power of Connection during the pandemic and how she used technology to build relationships with like-minded colleagues around the globe.



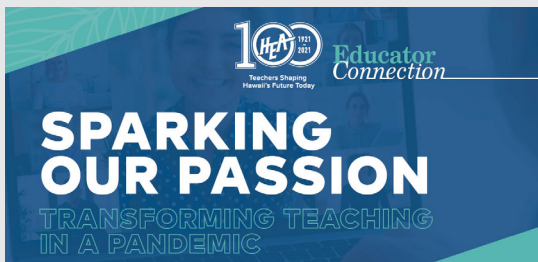
Dr. Nathan Murata, Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Education, shared about the Power of Movement and explained simple approaches, activities and exercises to stay active and combat Zoom fatigue.



Jodie Cheff, Interim Principal at Waialae Elementary Public Charter School, talked about the Power of Innovation at her school, including the portable cardboard Keiki Desks that her school's parents designed so that student seating could be reconfigured indoors and outdoors for safer learning environments.

Following the panelist introductions, attendees were able to move freely among three interactive "hallway chat" breakout rooms where they could ask questions of the panelists and delve into each topic in more detail.

At the conclusion of the event, HEA President June Motokawa shared an exciting announcement that HEA will be presenting special Centennial Awards in 2022 that are above and beyond the annual scholarships. Stay tuned for more information and announcements about our next Educator Connection event!



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Make a Gift by Dec. 31

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Scan the QR code to view the recording of the "Sparking Our Passion" panel discussion



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To affirm the professionalism of
Hawaii's educators.

Our Mission

To strengthen excellence
in education:

- Advocate teaching as a profession.
- Support pre-service and in-service educators.
- Advance professional learning for effective teaching.

Hawaii Education Association

1953 South Beretania Street, Suite 5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

Tel: 808.949.6657

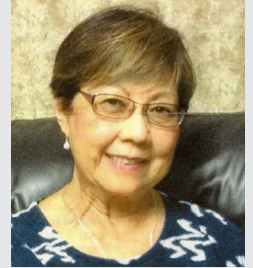
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hea.office@hawaiieducationassociation.org



A Message from the President: Aloha!

As always, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well! And always a heartfelt thank you for your kind and supportive letters and gifts to HEA.



The Board of Directors and staff began this calendar year with a focus on celebrating HEA's 100 years of advancing education in Hawaii—a rich history! However, not sitting on its laurels of the past, the Board's activities today shape a new future of new ways of connecting and supporting teachers and administrators, pre-K through college. HEA believes that the children of Hawaii deserve no less than the highest quality and excellence in the world of teaching and learning. We're determined to support the efforts of Hawaii's education community, especially in this unprecedented time of the COVID and post-COVID world. HEA wants to see and help our educators stay in the education field and to see the joy of peer-to-peer connections return.

In recognizing the importance of peer relationships and connections, the Board members and I are pleased to report that all the communications leading to "Sparking Our Passion," the first Educator Connection event on October 15, as well as the event itself, were a success. It was a first try! A big mahalo to HEA's new Program Manager, Dr. Lynn Hammonds; the Olomana Loomis ISC team; the panelists, Kecia McDonald, Dr. Nathan Murata, Jodie Cheff; our emcee, Steve Uyehara; and all of the participants.

In January of 2022, I will announce the HEA's Special Centennial Cash Awards criteria to all public and private school educators and to higher education faculty in colleges of education. An event is planned for April 2022 when the recipients of the awards will be announced and celebrated.

Write to us, call us, check out our newly designed website and social media platforms, and join us in our effort to help education move forward. I look forward to your continued engagement with the HEA.

June Motokawa

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In Memoriam

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What Will Be the New Normal? By Joan Lee Husted

In the one hundred years of HEA's existence, there never have been two school years like the past two. Schools will never be the same. Thank goodness! And that will be a good thing if we do it right.

Many of us who have retired from teaching or administrating do not recognize schools or students today. No longer do kids sit in nice, neat rows listening to teachers lecture from the front of the room. No longer are classrooms silent with only the teacher talking unless a student is answering a question or reciting a lesson. Classrooms at all levels are full of activity, motion and sounds. And of course, virtual learning.

Most students today are digital natives. They are growing up with the internet, computers, smart phones and TVs with hundreds of channels and streaming services. They do not know how to read an analog clock, they print rather than do cursive writing, and a dial phone would throw them for a loop. All digital equipment and activities are second nature to them.

A good share of teachers are digital immigrants who are learning how to manage the internet, computers and smartphones. Teachers who are digital immigrants are rushing to keep ahead of the students they work with. When my mother took a course in computers at Kapiolani Community College, their lab work was at an elementary school, and they were supervised by six graders. And when I go into the Apple store and see an 18-month-old sitting on a bouncy ball playing with their iPads, I realize how much I need to learn.

What will schools look like when we return to "normal?" And what will be "normal?" Many teachers and administrators will wonder what planet they landed on. This column will focus on students for whom all or most of their school experience is virtual.

Digital natives will be most students in schools, and woe to the educator who is not keeping up with the technology. I expect to

see whole public schools taught digitally. Currently, only a charter school is solely taught with distance learning. Hybrid schools will be quite common with some classes taught virtually; some classes mixed with some students in the class learning virtually while others are seated in the classroom.

Our students are different. If parents and schools do not prepare for it, many students will be isolated because they are learning virtually and have no social interaction. As Jodie Cheff, the Interim Principal of Waialae Elementary Public Charter School, said during our recent virtual event, "Sparking Our Passion," how do we do social activities for the students who are doing all their formal education virtually? We forget that schools are one place that we socialize children.

Dr. Nathan Murata, the Dean of the College of Education at UH Manoa, warns of Zoom fatigue and urges educators to get the students up and moving. Stop the lessons and have the kids stretch, move around the room and get them out of their chairs. Even in a hybrid classroom, students learning virtually and students seated in the classrooms can do physical activity together. That will be a new experience for most of today's educators.

Perhaps one of the startling events creating our new normal is the reality that not all the teachers working in our schools will live in Hawaii. To offset the teacher shortage or where too few students want to take a specific subject, teachers from all over the world may be recruited to instruct virtually in Hawaii. Granted, it will take a change in the State law, and the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board will have to develop new rules and regulations. Administrators and HSTA will have to work out ways to evaluate these remote teachers, and it should make for interesting parent-teacher conferences.

I am sure you can think of other systemic digital changes that create the new normal. Please share them on our webpage at hawaiieducationassociation.org.



Welcome to Our New Members!

Akiu, Rodena
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Capsun, Poe
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Fine, Morgan
Glenn, Erica

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Ing, Tiffany L
Kamikawa, Lauren
Kim, Christina
Ledesma, Helen Bailey
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