



Home of the Wildcats

Konawaena High School

81-1043 Konawaena School Road
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
Ph. 808-313-6000
FAX 808-323-4515

Shawn S. Suzuki
Principal

Diane C. Spencer
Vice Principal

Kellye Krug
Athletic Director

July 28, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past two years there has been a dramatic increase in student vaping on campus and during school-sponsored events. Vaping is against the law for anyone under the age of 21 and is not allowed on school campuses or at school events.

According to the 2015 Hawaii State Youth Risk Behavior Survey, almost half of all big Island public high school students have tried electronic cigarette devices. The percentage of Big Island youth who are vaping is almost 4.5% higher than the statewide average.

Konawaena High School has been proactively addressing this problem by talking with students about the possible dangers of vaping, both individually and through lessons during advisory periods. We are not only concerned with the legality of underage vaping, but also of the potential long-term health risks. Some students may already be so addicted to the nicotine in the “juice” that they risk getting caught, sometimes to the point of needing to vape while in class and hiding the telltale vapor by blowing it into backpacks. Others leave class frequently to do so or even vape on the school bus.

Because of this continuing problem Konawaena High School will be increasing its disciplinary action for vaping or possession of any vaping paraphernalia (mods, juice, battery packs etc.) to a minimum of three (3) days for the first offense with possible progressive discipline for subsequent offenses. The school will not return any mods, e-cigarettes or associated paraphernalia to parents as has been our prior practice. Often when there is a crowd it is difficult to tell which students are vaping, which ones may be lookouts, or which ones are just hanging around. We want to be clear that there may be discipline for all students caught or seen near any vaping or smoking. We are also working with the Hawaii County Police Department in cases where there is a suspicion of any other illegal substance in or with the device.

We don't want our students to risk their health or miss school due to suspension for vaping and are asking for your help. Please take some time to speak with your child about this. We realize for some it may be a difficult or controversial subject to broach and that everyone has their own opinion about it. As always however, we appreciate your efforts in supporting school rules and policies to help maintain an orderly learning environment and keeping our students safe.

Please contact me at 313-6000 with any questions or concerns. Mahalo!

To request interpreter or translation services for this or any document, please call the student services coordinator or an administrator at 313-6000.

**Konawaena High School Students Will: Care for self and 'ohana, Grow from adversity,
OWN THEIR FUTURES**



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