



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**For  
Immediate Action**

June 25, 2019

TO: Deputy Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendents  
Complex Area Superintendents  
Principals (All)  
Agricultural Teachers (All – via Principals)  
Custodians (All – via Principals)

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto  
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CK", written over the name "Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto".

SUBJECT: **Use of Herbicides on Hawaii State Department of Education Campuses**

This memorandum serves as a reminder that under the Hawaii State Department of Education's (HIDOE) Integrated Pest Management Program, the use of all herbicides is **banned** on HIDOE campuses. The Integrated Pest Management Program has been providing training for school custodial staff consistent with this policy for the last five years.

This directive aligns with Board of Education policies around ensuring student and staff safety:

- Policy E-301: The Department must provide safe and secure educational facilities.
- Policy E-305: The Department is required to institute procedures for ensuring the safety and security of students, personnel and school buildings.
- Policy 305-01: The Department must provide a caring environment conducive to the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of students while they participating in school activities. Such attention shall include instruction in safety practices and attitudes and proper maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment.

HIDOE recognizes that custodial staff and agricultural teachers on campuses with large planted areas such as hillsides and gulches may find it labor intensive to manually remove overgrown vegetation and weeds. While we are exploring the possible use of organic products that may be safely and effectively used as an alternative, all employees must continue to comply with HIDOE's policy banning herbicide use.