



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HILO-WAIAKEA COMPLEX
75 AUPUNI STREET, RM. 203
HILO, HAWAII 96720

HILO-WAIAKEA COMPLEX

November 4, 2015

Aloha Kakou,

As you are no doubt aware, there have been 11 confirmed cases of Dengue fever on Hawai'i Island in the past two weeks. We are working with other State and County agencies in determining how to best reduce any risks to our schools and students. At this time, no cases have affected any of our schools.

Dengue is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. It is NOT transmitted person to person. The Department of Health (DOH), in conjunction with Hawai'i County personnel, have begun to take action to prevent the further spread of the pests capable of carrying Dengue. These actions will continue until the all clear is given, and we are in close communication with all stakeholders in this effort.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are asking our schools to undertake weekly inspections of their entire campuses in an effort to identify and remedy any pools of standing water or other environmental conditions that could attract or propagate mosquitoes. They are also being asked to ensure that any refuse bins are covered and emptied in a timely manner.

Further, we ask our staff, families, and community members to be aware of these DOH recommendations outside of school:

- Be careful to avoid any mosquito bites if possible (wear repellent, long sleeves etc.)
- Eliminate any obvious mosquito breeding grounds (standing water, potted plants, uncovered catchment tanks)
- If you do become sick, please see a medical professional immediately

We thank you for your continued support of our students and ensure you that their health and safety is foremost in our minds.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Bennett".

Brad Bennett
Complex Area Superintendent
Hilo-Waiakea Complex Area