

NEWS RELEASE

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WHAT WOULD EMPOWERMENT LOOK LIKE IN HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Find Out at the 2nd Annual Hawaii School Empowerment Conference

HONOLULU – A local organization focused on transforming public education in Hawaii is presenting the second annual Hawaii School Empowerment Conference on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Three nationally recognized leaders in education and a highly respected local educator will be keynote speakers. Opening remarks will be given by First Lady Dawn Ige. Board of Education Chairperson Lance Mizumoto also will address the conference. Mrs. Ige is currently on leave from her position as a vice-principal in Hawaii's Department of Education (DOE).

The sponsoring organization, the Education Institute of Hawaii (EIH), was formed in 2014 and is led by life-long, award-winning educators dedicated to transforming Hawaii's public education system through school empowerment.

"EIH's overarching goal is to improve the quality of public education in Hawaii so that more children thrive and more professionals reach their full potential as educators," said EIH's Board Chair Roberta Mayor. "The recently enacted ESSA law lifts the federal mandates of the last five years and will allow states to determine how best to serve and educate our children. Now is the time for the Hawaii BOE and DOE to be bold and creative in transforming public education for the future."

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Mayor is a lifelong educator who worked for Hawaii's DOE for 24 years, including as principal of Waianae High School. She also served as the chief management analyst for California Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team, and as superintendent of Oakland Unified School District. She is the parent of two graduates of Hawaii's public schools.

Conference keynote speakers and their topics are:

- Diane Ravitch, "Education Reform Across the Nation, and the Implications for Hawaii." Ravitch is a professor of education at New York University who has authored many books, including a recent New York Times bestseller, "Reign of Error." Her blog (dianeravitch.com) has attracted more than 24 million visitors in the past three years.
- Pasi Sahlberg, "How Hawaii Could Benefit From Finland's Successes and Failures." Sahlberg is a former director general in Finland's Ministry of Education and currently is a visiting professor at Harvard. His best-selling book, "Finnish Lessons 2.0," has garnered prestigious awards from across the globe.
- Catherine Payne, "An Educator's Hope ... Preparing Our Students for Their Future, Not Our Past." Payne served for 37 years in Hawaii's DOE, most recently as principal of Farrington High School, and is currently chairperson of the Hawaii Charter School Commission. While principal of Olomana School, she received the prestigious National Milken Award.
- Raymond McNulty, "School Leadership for Hawaii in the 21st Century: Vision, Empowerment, and Innovation." McNulty is a senior fellow and past president of the International Center for Leadership in Education and has been a senior fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He is the author of the book, "It's Not Us Against Them – Creating the Schools We Need."

An award-winning educational documentary, "Most Likely to Succeed," will be screened before and after the conference. There will be break-out sessions throughout the day for discussion of public education in Hawaii.

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Conference funding is being provided by a grant from the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation. Cost of the conference is \$45, which covers breakfast, lunch and parking. Registration can be completed online at <https://eih2ndannualconference.eventbrite.com>.

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