

July 13, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

The ongoing statewide school bus driver shortage continues to impact transportation services across the Hawai'i State Department of Education. To help minimize disruptions and ensure that bus service remains available for our students, we are asking for your partnership in reinforcing school bus behavior expectations.

Safe and respectful behavior on the bus is essential. All students who ride the school bus are required to follow the Passenger Safety Code outlined in Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §8-28-6. When expectations are not met, bus drivers submit a Student Conduct Report to school administration. Depending on the severity of the behavior, disciplinary action may be taken, including the possible loss of school bus privileges.

To help prevent issues and keep transportation running safely and smoothly, please review the Passenger Safety Code with your child and complete the School Bus Behavior Acknowledgement form together. The signed form must be returned to your school administrator no later than the first day of school bus service. The completed form is valid from the date of completion until the end of the school year, May 31, 2027. Please note that failure to return the signed form may result in your student losing bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

We appreciate your support in reminding students that the bus is an extension of the school day and that safety and respect are everyone's responsibility. Working together, we can help ensure a safe and positive transportation experience for all students.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Tara Punzal
Kapa'a Middle School
Attachment