



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JAMES B. CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
45-386 KANEOHE BAY DRIVE
KANEOHE, HI 96744

December 11, 2020

Aloha Castle High 'Ohana,

As the 2nd quarter comes to a close, we are continually grateful for your support, patience, and understanding. Each quarter, our teachers work tirelessly to monitor student growth and close the achievement gaps. CHS remains committed to providing the best educational experience possible in light of the ongoing challenges we continue to face with the COVID-19 pandemic.

After weighing pros and cons, **we have decided to continue in a 100% Distance Learning model for the 3rd quarter.** Remaining in a distance learning model allows our teachers time to check in with students daily while providing synchronous sessions twice a week per period. Transitioning to a hybrid model would drastically reduce contact time with students to one synchronous session every other day, per period, per week. By increasing contact time with students in quarter 2, our data show CHS was able to reduce the failure rate in quarter 1 from 30% per academy to 13-20% per academy.

During quarter 3, our academies will work to ramp up our Castle Scholar's Hub while strategically transitioning more of our vulnerable students back to campus to access various supports. Please check our school website for more information and expectations regarding Castle Scholar's Hub. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's Academy Principal or Academy Counselor.

We will continue to work hard in the New Year to support our children. Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season.

Mahalo,

Bernie Tyrell, Principal
James B. Castle High School