

# Education in South Maui

November, 2009

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Kihei Community Association

## Update on DOE Kihei High School

### EIS Process Begun, Estimated Opening 2013

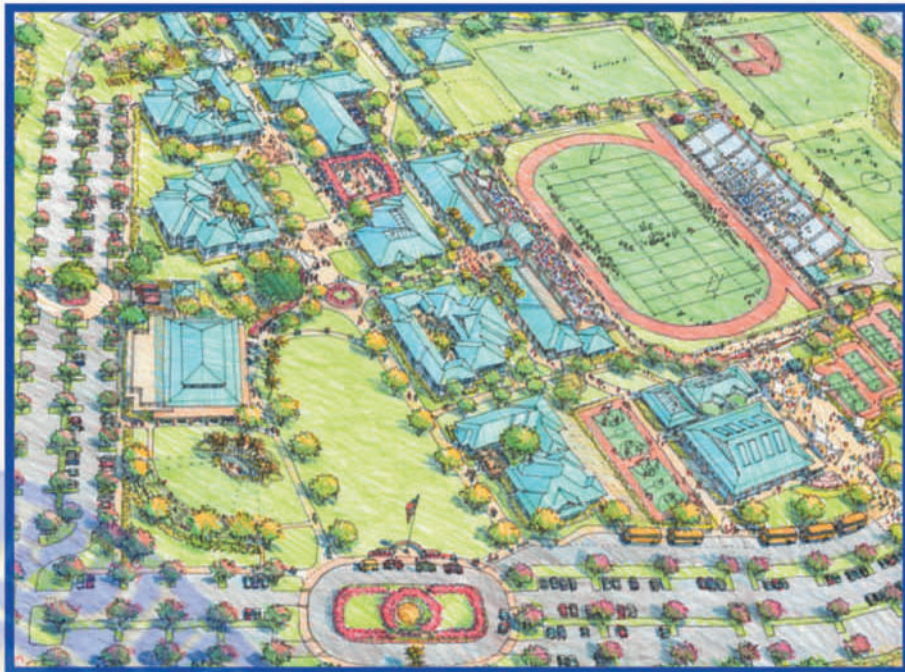
Group 70 International has released the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice, and will present to the Kihei Community Association on Nov. 17, 2009.

The site plan and illustrations reflect the vision that emerged from a series of design charrettes. These charrettes included local community members and area school administrators.

The new high school will be located on a 77 acre plot, mauka of the Pi'ilani Hwy across from Kulani Hakoi St. Some of the highlights include:

- 1,650 Enrollment Capacity
- 215,000 sq. ft. of Educational Buildings
- Specialty Classrooms, Music and Art Buildings, Industrial Arts, Gymnasium, PE and Athletic Buildings, JROTC Facility, and in the long term an Auditorium and Swimming Pool.
- Football/ Soccer/ Track & Field Stadium, Tennis & Basketball Courts, Grass Playfields, Softball and Baseball Fields.
- LEED Certified Construction

For more information and to download the EIS Preparation Notice go to [www.GoKihei.org](http://www.GoKihei.org)



site plan and illustrations courtesy of Group 70

### In This Edition:

## Budget Cuts, Furlough Fridays, Lost Class Time

Mitigating Negative Effects and Finding Positive Solutions as We Move Forward

### The Legislators Viewpoint

- Roz Baker ..... p. 2  
Joe Bertram ..... p. 3

### The Administrators Viewpoint

- Mary Auvil *Kamali'i Elem.* ..... p. 4  
Alvin Shima *Kihei Elem.* ..... p. 5  
Donna Whitford *Lokelani Int.* .... p. 6  
Gail Weaver *Kihei Charter* ..... p. 7



*Thank you to our local legislators and school administrators for their participation!* High school information courtesy of Group 70 International. "Education in South Maui" is sponsored by the Kihei Community Association. For comments, please contact the editor, Andrew Beerer at 283-8600.

# Education in South Maui

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Kihei Community Association

## The Legislator's Viewpoint an interview with:

### Roz Baker

State  
Senator  
5th District



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**The State Legislature is urging the Governor, HSTA and DOE to renegotiate a new contract. As a local legislator how can you help to influence the restoration of instructional days in our local schools?**

I have joined with my colleagues and stakeholders to explore ways to restore instructional days to our schools. Returning to the bargaining table is one vehicle. I have attended information briefings to gather facts on impacts, dollars needed and options available. I have stood with teachers, parents and students at rallies and I have signed the petition indicating my willingness to go into special session on this matter. However, we need to have a solid plan before a special session can be convened and we are working to develop one with the parties involved. (Two-thirds of members of each house of legislature must sign a petition for a special session or the Governor can call the Legislature into special session) Any resolution requires support from the Governor, the BOE and DOE and the various unions involved. Unfortunately, the Legislature cannot appropriate funds into the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 2010 without concurrence of the Governor.

To keep the schools open and functioning for students requires efforts by the entire school community. The \$35M in Part B Stimulus funds allocated to the State can be used to immediately restore about 7 days to this year's school calendar. Expenditure of those funds is solely at the discretion of the Governor and we are encouraging her to release them to the DOE for that purpose. We are also encouraging schools with days still available to request use of some remaining waiver or professional development days to restore instructional time this semester and for BOE to expedite the process. Realistically we're focusing on adding time in the next semester and eliminating instructional furloughs in the next school year. Ultimately, additional resources need to be found to support our schools (and other essential services) and my colleagues and I are working on a package for next session. I also plan to introduce legislation that would set a floor of no less than 180 instructional days for our schools. I welcome other ideas from the community as we plan for our 2010 Legislative session.

**As a legislator how are you assisting with the push for completion of the DOE Kihei Public High School?**

I have been working on this issue since I returned to the Senate representing South Maui in 2003. I worked with Maui BOE member Mary Cochran to make a new Kihei High School a higher priority on the facilities matrix so we could begin the process of developing a new school for South Maui students. Working with my legislative colleagues, I succeeded in securing over \$27M in the state budget for planning, land acquisition, design, construction and equipment for the school. I also initiated a bill that enables DOE to lease back schools constructed to DOE specifications by private companies and a Senate Concurrent Resolution

that designated the Kihei high school for that building option. Both measures were adopted. I continue to monitor the project to ensure it stays on track and will work with my colleagues for the next phase of funding as it is required. I appreciate the support from the community during the design charette, the many community meetings and communications to DOE and the BOE in support of developing this much needed school for our community. Now that the EIS process has commenced, it seems that this project is finally on its way! IMUA!

**In the big picture, what is your office doing to promote education in South Maui?**

I am an advocate for our public schools to help them achieve their mission. I attend school functions and meetings as often as I can to keep up to date on happenings at our schools as well as get a heads up on any concerns coming from the schools. I recently attended meetings with school personnel of Kamalii, Kihei Elementary and Lokelani schools and DOE facilities staff to set priorities for repair and maintenance projects. I attend these annual meetings to stay familiar with each school's facilities needs so that I can better advocate for R & M funds at the Legislature. I also participate on school inspection teams so that I can initiate and support funding for capital improvement projects for our schools. In addition, I meet with Kihei Charter School staff and board members to see how my colleagues and I can be helpful in support of their programs and assist in addressing their concerns and priorities. I look for ways that organizations and businesses in our community can partner with our schools on programs and projects. The 3R's program is an example of a community partnership that has benefitted South Maui schools. We all need to be more involved in supporting our schools and students' activities and programs.

# Education in South Maui

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**The Legislator's Viewpoint**  
an interview with:

**Joe  
Bertram**

**State  
Representative  
11th District**



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**The State Legislature is urging the Governor, HSTA and DOE to renegotiate a new contract. As a local legislator how can you help to influence the restoration of instructional days in our local schools?**

In response to your question regarding the teacher furlough issue, this is to provide you with an update on the options and proposed resolutions before us. Please know that the legislature is committed to pursuing and contributing towards whatever plan of action will get children back into the classroom as quickly as possible. We agree that 17 instructional days of teacher furloughs are detrimental to students and poor public policy.

However, it is important to emphasize that the legislature, by law, has no role in the collective bargaining agreement between the teacher's union, Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) the Superintendent of Education, the Board of Education (BOE) and the Governor. This is a binding contract that was negotiated, agreed upon and ratified by the parties. It is entirely up to these parties to get together and address the community's concerns. Should the parties come to a mutual agreement, and those new terms require legislative action, we are committed to doing our upmost to expeditiously consider and address their concerns.

Yet, so far, the parties have failed to take affirmative steps to come to the table and begin the necessary steps to renegotiate the agreement. That is why, the Speaker of the House will ask the parties – the Superintendent of Education, the BOE, the HSTA and the state administration – to go

back to the bargaining table and re-open contract negotiations to restore instructional days. We believe that this will be the quickest option to achieve our common goal.

There has been a lot of discussion about the legislature going into special session. Again, if the goal is to get children back to school for instruction, it appears that a special session is not necessarily the most effective or expedient option.

Here is why:

1. Furlough days are binding terms under the contract negotiated between the employer and the worker's union concerning wages and working hours. The legislature is not involved in contract negotiations for any of the unions. Even if we were to go into a special session, we would not be able to change the furlough days in terms of the number or which days to use for furloughs.

2. Some have suggested that the legislature go into special session in order to take or borrow monies from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) and the Rainy Day Fund. This option does not have wide-based support among the lawmakers or the Governor for various reasons. Should these funds be depleted, it may have a negative impact on the state's bond rating. Further, the use would be one-time only and does not address the second year furloughs.

The teacher furlough issue exists within a broader financial crisis. We anticipate that the legislature will face a \$1 billion deficit over the budget biennium which includes the next two fiscal years. The cost savings resulting from furloughs alone will not resolve the deficit. The Council on Revenues is scheduled to meet in December 2009 and will announce a new forecast for this period. We expect the deficit to worsen. The legislature must also consider that other public employee unions have negotiated furlough days. We must act fairly for all public employees, and again, any legislative action should not involve any changes to the agreements between the state and unions. It is to everyone's benefit that we address these issues as a whole, in a more deliberate process, during the regular session which starts in January 2010.

I understand that Furlough Fridays cause extreme stress for families, including economic hardship and concern for the quality of your children's education. A resolution must involve the Governor, the Superintendent, the BOE and the HSTA. I urge you to share your concerns with all the parties if you have not already done so. While we are still working on the issues, I hope the above information will help clarify the situation.

**As a legislator how are you assisting with the push for the completion of the DOE Kihei Public High School?**

In 2006 Governor Lingle released \$700,000 in planning funds for the new high school in Kihei. The planning phase of the project would include items such as a site selection study, environmental impact statement, functional analysis and concept development, master plan report, subdivision action and application for special permits. In 2007 the Legislature appropriated \$20 million for plans, land, design, construction and equipment. The estimated total cost for the new school is projected to be about \$135 million with a planned enrollment of 1650 students in grades 9-12. The state hired Maui based consultant Munekiyo & Hiraga Inc. to examine seven sites and in late 2007 state education officials selected a privately owned parcel north of the Ellair Golf Course and on the Haleakala Ranch and a similar portion by Kaonoulu Ranch.

Because of my interest to promote education in South Maui, I have met with and am in contact with the DOE on this ongoing project. In August 2009 Group 70 prepared an Environmental Impact Statement for the development of the new High school for the DOE. If everything goes well, the DOE feels the new High School could open as soon as 2012.

**In the big picture, what is your office doing to promote education in South Maui?**

I just recently completed a Repair and Maintenance tour, with the Department of Accounting & General Services, of our South Maui Schools.

# Education in South Maui

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## Administrator's Viewpoint

an interview with:

# Mary Auvil

Principal,  
Kamali'i  
Elementary



**Current budget cuts would seem to have an effect on nearly all aspects of your school. What steps is your administration taking to mitigate the negative effects on students?**

In order to continue to reach our AYP goals and provide our students with the research-based best practices required under NCLB, we are continually providing professional growth opportunities for teachers. In an effort to maximize our school level resources and in following best practices, this year Kamali'i has Professional Learning Community time built into our school schedule. Kamali'i faculty and staff utilize opportunities to engage in and build capacity in activities that provide educational value essential to develop and improve student performance and school quality.

Professional learning communities capitalize on individual and group expertise and help to build the capacity of all teachers in the grade level and the school. In addition, professional learning communities help teachers assist each other by reflecting on problems and finding solutions. Professional learning communities help the school to build capacity as well as sustain and improve school-wide efforts. Professional learning communities assists in building consistency and fidelity to all of our school-wide efforts.

**Some schools have applied for an exemption from waiver or planning days, or a change in bell schedule. What is your administration's current position on trying to restore lost time in the classroom?**



**Kamali'i  
Elementary**

Of the 280 schools in Hawaii, my understanding is that approximately 100 have applied to have waiver days converted to instructional days. To me

this indicates that there are no easy answers or one best way to address this issue. Every school needs to make the decisions that are in the best interest of school improvement. In some instances that means more contact time and more direct instruction for kids and in other instances it means continued teacher training and the understanding of effective teaching strategies. At Kamali'i, we are keeping our professional development days. It is important to develop teacher skills to support students by targeting instruction. The Kamali'i vision/mission statement, "Committed to Excellence" values the school-wide commitment to educate the "whole" child by providing quality instruction that is standards based.

**Although we are navigating through tough times, there are lots of wonderful things happening at school. What are some of the positive things happening at Kamali'i?**

There are a lot of exciting things happening at Kamali'i! We are continuing to develop and expand on our community partnerships. With the fund-raising efforts of the P.T.A. and Kamali'i families we are able provide all of our students with fine arts experiences though MAPA (Maui Academy of Performing Arts). In addition to MAPA, I am very excited to announce other fine art educational opportunities that have been made available for our students. We are continuing our partnership with the Hui No'eau. Two artists from the Hui No'eau will be working with students in grades 2 and 4 over a five week period starting on Tuesday, November 10th.

This year, Kamali'i began working with the non-profit save the arts education organization called "A Make Believe Company". Darren Sarno, from "A Make Believe Company", has worked collaboratively with Kamali'i and local artists to provide arts opportunities for our students. To date, the following artists have worked with Kamali'i students; photographers Sergio Oliveria from Sergio Photography and portrait photographer, Aubrey Hord, artist/sculptor, Dale Zarrella. Chef Brian Etheredge and Chef Chris Coolidge from Capische, and local band, Aaron and the Throwdowns, will be coming to Kamali'i for a mini-concert later on this month.

We are continuing to work with South Maui Sustainability in the expansion of our community garden and we have continued with our partnership with UH Manoa, whereby students from Kamali'i interact with University of Hawaii's research and education staff and learn science through hands-on activities designed to introduce insect exploration, most specifically on termites, in an inquiry-based setting in the classroom. We have

started a partnership with Kumo Kimkeo. Kumo Kimokeo helps bring Social Studies to life for our fourth grade students by inviting people in our community, who are experts in Hawaiian cultural, to Kamali'i to work with our students – these "living treasures" have taught our students about the fish ponds, Hawaiian language, dance, chants and they have even brought Hawaiian artifacts for our students to study.

As we move forward in educating students for the 21st century, Kamali'i has developed a LEGO League Team and we participated in the first LEGO League Maui Tournament at Seabury Hall on Nov. 14th. Kamali'i has also started an after school Media Club where students are writing, filming, editing and producing their own public service announcements.

## Kamali'i Elementary

**Excitement Abounds in 2009**

### School Profile

**Kamali'i Elementary, Grades K-5**

180 Alanui Ke Alii

Phone: (808) 875-6840

Principal: Mary Auvil

2009 Enrollment: 668

### "Committed to Excellence"

#### Our Mission:

**Parents, Teachers, Staff and Community**

Work with others to achieve common goals

Participation in community

#### Uniting to provide

A variety of learning strategies to enhance further learning

Experiences that involve complex thinking and problem solving

**Enriching educational and technological**

Use and apply technological skills

Produce and recognize quality products and services

**Opportunities for all Students**

To become self-directed learners responsible for ones' own learning

**To provide skills for life-long learning**

# Education in South Maui

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Kihei Community Association

## Administrator's Viewpoint

an interview with:

### Alvin Shima

Principal,  
Kihei  
Elementary



**Current budget cuts would seem to have an effect on nearly all aspects of your school. What steps is your administration taking to mitigate the negative effects on students?**

Yes, we are trying to mitigate the negative impact the budget cuts are having on our students. One of the first things we did as a school was re-visit and adjusted our curriculum maps in the core subject areas (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) to ensure that we cover the critical skills that all students must know. Teachers have been asked to look at creative ways of integrating the elective areas such as Physical Education, Music, Art, Computers, etc. with the core subject subjects. We are also bringing "field trips" to school instead of our students leaving school to go on field trips to reduce out of class time whenever possible.

**Some schools have applied for an exemption from waiver or planning days, or a change in bell schedule. What is your administration's current position on trying to restore lost time in the classroom?**

When it looked like furloughs were going to become a reality, my administrative team (which included teachers) and I began discussions on what we can do to try and increase our instructional time for students. We looked at changing our remaining P/C days to instructional days. We also talked about

changing our bell schedule to increase instructional time on Wednesdays by ending school at 2:00 pm instead of 1:15. As these

two options affects the teacher contract, there is a process that needed to be followed to request an exception to the teacher contract. First, teachers needed to come to consensus for approval to change their contract. If consensus could not be reached, then teachers had to vote on changes. The teacher contract requires a 66 2/3% vote in the affirmative. If there is an affirmative vote, then the exception request needs to be sent to the Board of Education as well as the Hawaii State Teacher Association for approval.

We will be submitting two exception requests to the BOE and HSTA for approval. (1) Changing our bell schedule on Wednesdays so school ends at 2:00 instead of 1:15. This will add 45 minutes of instructional each week for the rest of the school year (2) Change one of our remaining three P/C days to an instructional day. This will add another instructional day to our school year.

**Although we are navigating through tough times, there are lots of wonderful things happening at school. What are some of the positive things happening at Kihei Elementary?**

We have a fantastic community volunteer group of retired professionals that assists our students in reading and math every day. It's headed by Mrs. Pat Lamson who is a retired school superintendent from California. Many of these volunteers are part-time residents of Maui.

The South Maui Sustainability organization is helping our school build a school garden for our students. The garden will help our students make relevant connections between what they learn in the classroom and our environment. This project is being organized by Susan Wyche and Emily Goss.

I am most proud of our school's academic standing. Our school has moved from being a "failing" school to one in "good standing" as established by the No Child Left Behind benchmarks. Considering our demographics, large population of low social economic status families, large population of students whose first language is not English, and just being a very large elementary school, we have remained in "good standing" over the past few years even as the "bar" has risen to higher levels of achievement. I account our success to the many hard working and dedicated teachers at our school, our academic programs, and our support staff in providing students what they need to succeed. This dedication is not only within our teaching staff but also our classified staff of educational assistants, office staff, custodial staff and cafeteria staff. Each contributes to the success of

our school. We are not where I hope we should be, however, we are constantly working to achieve our mission and vision. Our success has been helped by the many community groups such as, our PTA, the Rotary Clubs in Kihei and local businesses with their donation of time and money. It really does take a whole community to be successful.

## Kihei Elementary

Dedicated to Community Partnerships

### School Profile

**Kihei Elementary, Grades K-5**

250 E. Lipoa Street  
Phone: (808) 875-6818

Principal: Alvin Shima  
2009 Enrollment: 885

### "We Do Whatever It Takes To Succeed"

#### Our Vision:

Kihei Elementary School is an essential part of the community, which develops responsible citizens and life long learners.

#### Our Mission:

Kihei Elementary School will provide a positive, safe and stimulating environment enhancing each child's curiosity and ability to learn and achieve to high standards.



# Education in South Maui

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Kihei Community Association

## Administrator's Viewpoint

an interview with:

# Donna Whitford

Principal,  
Lokelani  
Intermediate



**Current budget cuts would seem to have an effect on nearly all aspects of your school. What steps is your administration taking to mitigate the negative effects on students?**

Lokelani Intermediate School did undergo devastating budget cuts which resulted in the loss of the vice principal position as well as a reduction in hours for other positions such as ELL and security, however, the staff and faculty understands that the primary focus has and always will be our students, hence the master schedule has been preserved. This action ensures that teacher-student ratios remain relatively small, and the bell, class

and team  
planning  
schedules  
remain intact;  
thereby  
allowing for the  
continuance of  
core classes,  
fine arts,  
exploratory  
wheel and



enrichment courses and extra-curricula activities, all designed to educate the whole child. After-school tutoring is also provided for some students as well academic recovery periods during the school day which allow students to make-up work they have missed or don't understand. Partnerships with other organizations, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Challenge Day, Maui Youth & Family Services, the Rotary Club, etc. also help to mitigate the negative effects on students caused by loss of funds.

**Some schools have applied for an exemption from waiver or planning days, or a change in bell schedule. What is your administration's current position on trying to restore lost time in the classroom?**

Lokelani continues with its present bell schedule, because of the flexibility it provides teachers in designing lessons to address required standards and benchmarks. A case in point is the fact that Lokelani students take a monthly assessment in both reading and math. These assessments point out specific student strengths and weaknesses in specific strands and skills of the various benchmarks. By studying and analyzing this data, teachers are able to design lessons to meet the unique needs of each child, which while not restoring the actual face time in the classroom, does provide for an enhancement of quality instruction during the time the students are in school.

**Although we are navigating through tough times, there are lots of wonderful things happening at school. What are some of the positive things happening at Lokelani?**

Lokelani can boast that thus far, it is the only secondary school in the Maui District, which has not

entered into restructuring. Lokelani has continued a steady rise in its HSA scores, and would have met AYP this past year, except for a procedural error in marking accommodations. This academic excellence coupled with a decrease in disciplinary problems can be attributed to a fine faculty & staff and also the adoption of Challenge Day which has occurred over the past four years. Lokelani's dedication to the concept of "students first" can also be seen in its accomplishments, such as being the first middle school to participate in Brown Bags to Stardom or having the Student Council win the award for the outstanding State Student Council for the past six years. There are many positive things happening at the school and everyone is welcome to take advantage of its open-door policy to experience these great things for themselves.

## Lokelani Intermediate

### School Profile

**Lokelani Intermediate, Grades 6-8**

1401 Liloa Dr

Phone: (808) 875-6800

Principal: Donna Whitford

2009 Enrollment: 569

### Our Vision:

**Lokelani Intermediate School is a community of life-long learners within an environment that fosters academic excellence, as well as emotional, social and physical well-being.**

# Education in South Maui

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Kihei Community Association

## Administrator's Viewpoint

an interview with:

### Gail Weaver

Assistant Director, Kihei Charter School



**Current budget cuts would seem to have an effect on nearly all aspects of your school. What steps is your administration taking to mitigate the negative effects on students?**

The charter school has seen our funding drop from \$8,400 per student in school year 07-08, to \$7,600 per student in 08-09, to \$5,700 per student this school year, with an estimated per pupil funding of \$5,200 for next school year. Out of this funding we must pay for all of our expenses, including facilities, utilities, salaries, school vans, gas, and supplies (the only exception is funding for our special education staff). This year our Local School Board has furloughed two of our teachers into educational assistant positions, cut our counselor position, and has furloughed all of our staff for thirteen days. We started this school year with furloughs, but, in order to minimize impacts to students we furloughed our teachers on days that had originally been scheduled as teacher

collaboration days. Our goal is to not furlough students as we are forced to make tough decisions regarding our budget.



**Some schools have applied for an exemption from waiver or planning days, or a change in bell schedule. What is your administration's current position on trying to restore lost time in the classroom?**

For the spring semester, our teachers have agreed to furlough themselves on alternating Fridays, which will allow our faculty to develop innovative synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning activities that to keep our students engaged for, at minimum, five days per week. We are fortunate to have extensive virtual experience and expertise amongst our staff as we have developed and grown as effective virtual program within our school over the course of the past five years. In addition, students will also be engaged in field-based activities on these Fridays, such as: scientific field work on board Pacific Whale vessels, agricultural studies in our school garden, or service learning projects with one of our many community partners.

**Although we are navigating through tough times, there are lots of wonderful things happening at school. What are some of the positive things happening at Kihei Charter School?**

This school year our students are involved in many wonderful projects, including: an algae study conducted in partnership with NOAA (funded by a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry Grant and a \$1,000 Monsanto Science Education Grant); field-based studies in 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve (in partnership with DLNR, TEACH Maui, Inc, and Kihei Canoe Club and is funded by a \$75,000 NOAA B-WET GRANT); engineering projects (funded by a \$5,000 MEDB Ke Ahahele Grant); an aquarium and reef studies project (funded by a \$3,000 Good Ideas Grant); astronomy studies (funded by a \$1,000 AAWU Grant); agricultural studies and the development of a school garden (funded by the generosity of numerous parent and community donors); and other various service learning projects around the island (funded by a \$5,000 Project Give Grant).

## Kihei Charter School

Home of the Tiger Sharks

### School Profile

**Kihei Charter School, Grades K-12**

**KCS High School Grades 9-12**

2009/2010 Enrollment: 198

**TEAMS Middle School Grades 6-8**

2009/2010 Enrollment: 161

**K-8 Hybrid Virtual Academy**

2009/2010 Enrollment: 113

#### Our Mission:

The mission of Kihei Charter School is to conceptualize, organize and build innovative learning environments with custom designed educational programs that will prepare students for a satisfying and productive life in the 21st century.

#### Our Vision:

As a public charter school of choice, we strive to offer the highest quality, innovative educational program to our students. The basis of our curriculum decisions comes from solid academic research and belief.