

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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SUPERINTENDENT

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

An increasing number of elementary and middle school-aged students have been caught bringing air guns to schools. Air guns are considered to be a "firearm" under Chapter 19 (Hawaii Administrative Rules). Any student who brings a firearm to school "shall be excluded from attending school for not less than one calendar year." Only the superintendent, on a case-by-case basis, may modify the exclusion of the student. If you contest the decision, then due process hearing procedures will be implemented. The schools must provide alternative education or other appropriate assistance if your child is excluded.

An air gun shoots plastic pellets and often has the appearance, feel, and sound of a "real handgun." BB guns, pellet guns, and paint ball guns are considered to be air guns. Recovered firearms look so realistic that police officers facing one of these air guns would not be able to see that it is not a real handgun. Air guns are not to be sold or otherwise transferred to any person under the age of 18 years old based on revised local county ordinances. Persons under 18 years of age may not carry any air gun on the street, alleys, public roads or public lands unless accompanied by an adult. The air gun must be unloaded or in a suitable case or securely wrapped. It is a misdemeanor offense.

For safety's sake, we strongly recommend that you dialogue with your child on the topic of firearms, especially air guns, school and personal safety, and the consequences of committing a Chapter 19 Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, and Restitution for Vandalism and Negligence related offense. Attached is a flyer, "Be Cool! Don't be a fool!" Please review this flyer and elaborate with your child the impact of the consequences for the given "What happens if . . ." situations. Always be aware of what your child is bringing to school in his or her backpack.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Scofield".

Susan Scofield
Principal