



Aloha Families & Friends of Keolu Elementary,

July, 2021

My name is Kau'i Tanaka and I am honored and excited to be here at Keolu Elementary as a fellow Nā Honu and the new principal following Principal Kong's retirement in June. What big shoes I have to fill! I will do my best as I strive to be a leader who is supportive, approachable, and collaborative in order to build capacity here at Keolu Elementary School.

I come to Keolu Elementary School with 20 years of service in the DOE, with 17 of those years, serving in the Kailua-Kalāheo Complex. I started my teaching career at Mililani Mauka Elementary School then taught at Maunawili Elementary School for 12 years before transitioning into administration. I started my administrative journey as Vice Principal at Kalāheo High School and Kainalu Elementary School. I then served at Washington Middle School in the Honolulu District. This was a great learning experience but I missed the Kailua community and returned to serve as Vice Principal at Kailua Intermediate School. These experiences at elementary, intermediate/middle, and high school have prepared me to be here at Keolu Elementary School to prepare students for the next level at intermediate school.

Here at Keolu Elementary School, we will continue being inclusive for all students and provide small group conferencing to provide interventions needed for student learning. The pandemic has made life interesting as we have all found new ways to safely interact with one another even when we needed to be apart. I am happy that we will be returning to face-to-face learning so school can safely be a busy place again. To do this, we will continue to follow CDC and DOH guidelines. I look forward to hearing children in the halls, on the playground, and in their classrooms engaging in their learning. I have missed elementary aged children and I can't wait to support the faculty and staff in meeting the needs of the whole child.

I look forward to a wonderful 21-22 school year. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at (808) 266-7818. You can also email me at kau_i.tanaka@k12.hi.us.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kau'i M. Tanaka