



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EWA MAKAI MIDDLE SCHOOL
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Telephone (808) 687-9500 Fax (808) 685-2052

November 9, 2020

Dear PTO Executive Board,

This letter is to inform you that the school has decided not to have a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Ewa Makai Middle School starting today, November 9, 2020. This was a difficult decision because we do value our parents, but the EMMS Ohana organization is not following National PTO protocols and so we are unable to support it at this time. A parent teacher organization gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. When parents are involved in the educational process of their children, students are more likely to attend school regularly, to take more rigorous courses, earn higher grades and graduate and go on to college and careers.

Your revised By-Laws have excluded the principal, teacher, and PCNC from being part of your executive board (see By-Law revisions in your PTO, Sept. Minutes). There have been PTO meetings and no representative from the school has attended recently or been invited to attend. This strong message that we are not part of this EMMS Ohana organization defeats the purpose of the organization. It states in your 2nd revision of By-Laws in Article V, Sec. 1 (no date is on this revision) that the EMMS Ohana (PTO) is a constituent organization of the "Ewa Beach Parent Alliance." This is not part of Ewa Makai Middle School and our PTO shouldn't be a sub group of another organization without the approval of the school. Another concern is the election practices of the current EMMS Ohana PTO as they did not follow National PTO protocols.

Our PCNC and Transition Coordinator work hard to include our parents in many activities and events at our school. With COVID-19 being a huge factor in these community events this year, we are working to include parents in many of our virtual happenings. We believe that these two positions at our school are inclusive of our parents and staff supporting our needs at this time through social media and other school systems that we have in place at EMMS. We will still be inviting our parents to be partners with the school and encouraging them to plan events that don't involve fund-raising at this time. We have enough funds to support our teachers and we know that fund-raising is a huge burden on our parents during this pandemic, so we don't want to cause anymore stress to our families.

As stated in your PTO By-Laws, you will need to dissolve your EMMS Ohana organization and this should include taking EMMS Ohana off any of your documentation. Thank you for your service to our community, we appreciate all of your hard work these past years. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email or call us at 808-687-9500.

Sincerely,

Kim Sanders, Principal, Ewa Makai Middle School 

Larisa Gadach, Vice Principal 

Diana Agor, Vice Principal 

Keoni Ariola, Vice Principal 